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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Foreign Ministers Hold Emergency Session

Meeting Opens 30 Jul

JN3007175993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The meeting of the emergency session of the Arab League Ministerial Council began at the Conferences Palace at 1900 today. The meeting is headed by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, chairman of the current session of the council. The session was attended by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the members of the fraternal Arab delegations participating in the meeting.

The Syrian Arab Republic delegation is led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Lebanese delegation is led by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Morocco's Filali Delivers Speech

JN3007195393 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1737 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Speech by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali at the opening session of the Arab League Ministerial Council emergency meeting in Damascus on 30 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, ministers and heads of delegations, the Arab League secretary general, ladies, and gentlemen: I open the work of this emergency meeting, which the fraternal Lebanese Government has called, to discuss the Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Brothers: Our meeting, which the Syrian Government thankfully hosts in Damascus, is being held to discuss this serious Israeli aggression on the territories of a member state of our Arab League and to take steps that will raise this issue and preserve Lebanon's security, stability, and territorial integrity.

We all have followed with concern and pain the reports on the brutal Israeli aggression against the Lebanese territories, which has been been going on since last Sunday [25 July]. As a result of these attacks, hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed or wounded; many villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens have left their homes.

We all have condemned this flagrant Israeli aggression, which openly violates international legitimacy, especially Resolution 425. These events would not have occurred if Israel had bowed to the international community's will by implementing this resolution and withdrawing from the occupied territories.

Israel's intransigence and defiance of the international community—by continuing to occupy Arab territories, including southern Lebanon—will constantly pose grave threats to peace and security, in the region and the world. Under the current international circumstances, the only way to avoid these dangers is to intensify Arab efforts in order to confront the Israeli threats and put an end to them.

It is regrettable that these attacks on Lebanon come at a time when this fraternal country has begun to make its way toward the restoration of its regional and international status, to enjoy security and serenity, and to work for reconstruction under a national accord that is entrenched day after day, thanks to cooperation among faithful Lebanese citizens and to the efforts by Lebanon's brothers and friends.

We should find a way to end this aggression and stop the bloodshed, destruction, and expulsion of innocent people by the Israeli army. On this occasion, I would like to affirm my country's full support for and solidarity with fraternal Lebanon. I am confident that the brothers who represent all Arab states in this hall have the same feelings. Thank you. [applause]

'Abd-al-Majid on Israeli Policies

JN3007193093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1758 GM 30 Jul 93

[Speech by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the opening session of the Arab League Ministerial Council emergency meetings in Damascus on 30 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Mr. Chairman Dr. Abdellatif Filali, your excellencies, brothers and sisters: God's peace and blessings be upon you. Your esteemed council is holding an extraordinary session in Damascus today at Lebanon's request to discuss the serious situation that has resulted from the large-scale Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon with various types of weapons—an aggression the region has not witnessed since the Israeli invasion in June 1982. This aggression is a threat not only to the fraternal Lebanon's security and sovereignty, but also to the peace process accepted by all peoples of the world to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Our meeting in Damascus today is designed to take a unified Arab position reflecting the desired, strong solidarity and affirming a full rejection of all attempts by Israel to control southern Lebanon. At the same time, this meeting is designed to adopt the required measures to exercise all political, diplomatic, and economic pressures on all states to make them hold Israel fully responsible for all the losses and suffering of the Lebanese people, and to force Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Mr. Chairman: The Arab League General Secretariat has followed with extreme concern the Israeli aggression

against the towns and villages in southern Lebanon since its early hours. On 25 July, the Arab League issued a statement in which it affirmed its full condemnation of that aggression and demanded that the United Nations and its influential member states immediately intervene to force Israel to stop its repeated attacks against southern Lebanon and to work to immediately implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for full withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for spreading Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. This is out of concern for the continued peace process and the achievement of security and stability in the Middle East. It was hoped that Lebanon's call for a UN Security Council meeting would receive an immediate response by the council, and that it would meet to adopt the required resolutions to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and to immediately cease its operations in southern Lebanon.

However, the continued Israeli defiance of the will of the international community and the resolutions of the international legitimacy has created a bitter Arab feeling and provoked an international desire to confront this Israeli provocation. Israel must be forced to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, the foremost of which is UN Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978, which stipulates the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops from all the occupied Lebanese territory, respecting Lebanon, its sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and spreading the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all its national soil.

Mr. Chairman: The villages and homes in the south of fraternal Lebanon are still targets of brutal Israeli bombardment and destruction. This has resulted in a large number of innocent victims, whose houses were demolished and who were forced to flee under an Israeli plan designed to empty southern Lebanon of its citizens in order to complete the Zionist plans to totally occupy southern Lebanon and exploit its waters and wealth.

The policy of imposing a fait accompli, which is still governing the Israeli mentality—based on keeping the occupied territories and achieving peace at the same time—has proven that Israel is unwilling to accept the principle of land for peace. This policy has emphasized the need for the Security Council to assume its responsibilities under the UN Charter, to take immediate, effective measures to stop the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, to force Israel to implement the Security Council resolutions related to Lebanon's complete sovereignty over its territory, and to create appropriate circumstances to return the authority of the state and its civilian and military establishments in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Chairman: Our meeting in Damascus has a pan-Arab meaning that I feel obliged to note and emphasize. The route to achieving a just peace—which we seek and which you supported in Decision No. 5092 on 12 September 1991—is through Arab solidarity. This is the only way for us to restore our credibility with the international powers in a way that guarantees our nation's rights and security.

Mr. Chairman: While paying tribute to the fraternal Lebanese people and their national government, we want to stress that your presence here today is an expression of the Arab nation's constant support for Lebanon and its unity and the peace and security of its land and people.

We express our greetings and appreciation for the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, which has responded to the pan-Arab call to host this meeting, making available everything required to render it a success.

I am confident that your esteemed council will look into possible measures and steps to put an end to the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, help the fraternal Lebanese people to remove the traces of these attacks, and abort Israel's schemes to obstruct the peace process and maintain its occupation of Arab territories in line with its expansionist bent.

We are confident of the Lebanese people's victory over aggression and their successful heroic steadfastness until they liberate their territories. Our will of peace is complemented and paralleled by struggle to regain all our legitimate rights. It is a just struggle that must achieve victory. May God grant you success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Requests Support

NC3007154493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Speech by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Damascus on 30 July—recorded]

[Text] Chairman Abdellatif Filali, the Arab League secretary general, delegation heads, brothers: Explaining the last six days in the lives of Lebanon and the Lebanese people would be very lengthy. However, I will try to sum things up as much as I can, particularly because it is a repetition of the daily torment of the people of southern Lebanon and al-Biqa' for years. Suddenly, Israel decided to protect its occupation of part of southern Lebanon with an aggression that destroyed the towns and villages that were spared during the 1982 invasion, thereby violating Lebanon's sovereignty, security, territorial waters, and airspace. Since Sunday [25 July], the Israeli aggression has continued with indiscriminate land, sea, and air bombardment, targeting civilians, property, bridges, and roads. Dozens of thousands of shells and rockets landing on 70 towns and villages led to the destruction of whole neighborhoods in al-Nabatiyah and partial destruction of dozens of villages in the south and western al-Biqa' and forced thousands of people from their villages to other parts of Lebanon. The numbers of refugees are increasing by the hour, and the refugees are experiencing tragic circumstances. Many of them sleep

outside, in makeshift tents, or in schools. Is there a logical interpretation or legal justification for such an aggression? The aggressors use the pretext of a rocket firing as a justification to displace people.

As is clear from its magnitude, the aggression is a result of a premeditated and carefully prepared plan. The plan has taken an exaggerated and unjustified course in the past few days. The Lebanese Government has always sought peace and has taken part in making it. It has never backed the katyusha policy that is pursued outside the delicate political calculations that try to strike a balance between maintaining the homeland's higher interests and unity, on one hand, and the citizens' right to defend their land against the occupier, on the other. Despite the fact that confronting the aggressor and resisting the occupier and defense of self, land, and sovereignty is a legitimate right recognized by international law and charters, the Lebanese Government's sure desire for peace prompted it to place reconstruction and development high on the list of priorities and as the first line of defense for genuine peace in Lebanon. The government acted on this basis for months and began to implement its program.

We had embarked on an overall plan of revival in Lebanon when the latest Israeli aggression came to say through aircraft, warships, and artillery and through certain Israeli officials that there will be no development or reconstruction in Lebanon.

This country that seeks domestic peace is facing aggression and its picture is becoming clear to you and to the world public. The aggression demonstrates the magnitude of the dangers it entails, as well as the dimensions of the tragedy and destruction it has caused. One of the results of this aggression is the mass exodus of people as a result of bombardment and intimidation and repeated ultimatums by Israel to the people to leave their villages. The Israeli prime minister did not deny that Israel's goal of this aggression is to empty the villages in the south and force their people out to destabilize the Lebanese domestic front. This prompted the UN secretary general to condemn this policy, which violates the UN Charter.

Brothers, this repeated aggression not only constitutes a military operation, but also a political operation under the cover of a military uniform. This operation aims at achieving several things, foremost among which are:

1. To rob Lebanon and the Lebanese of their right to reject the occupation and to obstruct the state's plan to strengthen and expand the area of deployment of the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces in all the Lebanese territory, including the south and western al-Biqa';

2. To shake stability in Lebanon, to strike at its national unity, to torpedo its salvation and reconstruction progress, and to distract Lebanon from its basic national objectives that are being undertaken by our government in full solidarity with all the Arab brothers, in general, and Syria, in particular. Syria has shouldered the responsibility and requirements of the stage with us, under the harshest circumstances;

3. To create a new situation on the ground in order to pressure Lebanon in a bid to drag it to negotiating positions within the framework of the Arab-Israeli negotiations that are far from its constants, as represented in the implementation of Resolution 425;

4. To use guns to stop Resolution 425 and replace it with a new status with a view toward imposing the Israeli negotiating theory. This theory aims at forcing Lebanon to abandon its basic political position in the negotiations and make it accept the set of security arrangements that Israel has been persistently demanding since the start of the negotiations; and

5. To pressure all the other Arab negotiating sides in order to influence their principled stances in the negotiating process and their adherence to Arab rights and to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to affirm today that the Lebanese people are alone in confronting the aggression. The Lebanese Government adheres to its stand, which supports the just peace. The government will not give up its national and pan-Arab responsibilities based on the constant and continuing solidarity with the Arab brothers.

The Lebanese Government will not allow Israel to dictate its conditions. The government will also not allow the treacherous aggression to harm Lebanon's commitment to the political and national constants according to which Lebanon has participated in the negotiations. This has been evident in the solid internal unity vis-a-vis the aggression and in the steps made by the Lebanese Government.

On the domestic level, the Lebanese Army in the south is performing its national duty in defending the dignity of the land and people. The ministries and departments have mobilized their bodies and potentials to alleviate the amount of suffering of thousands of refugees.

On the foreign level, Lebanon has called for a UN Security Council meeting so that this international forum may assume its responsibility in upholding the principles of international law and initiate the necessary measures to deter the aggressor and force it to stop its aggression and withdraw from Lebanon.

Lebanon's request for the convocation of this emergency session of the Arab League Council is in keeping with the League's Charter and the Arab Joint Defense Pact. It aims at closing Arab ranks to handle the current situation and bring it under control, rather than just being a victim of the current events.

Lebanon has conducted intensive consultations with world capitals to stop the aggression. Lebanon, however,

is totally convinced that the most important support for its cause may only come from joint Arab work.

Brothers, we are determined to assume our full responsibility in the South and western al-Biqa'. We will continue to support the role played by the Lebanese Army and other Lebanese security forces. I take this opportunity to state the following fact: The Army will be better able to expand the scope of its deployment and impose the state's authority and sovereignty if you grant it the support that we have been expecting for so long. We are still waiting patiently for this support. Meanwhile, our land and dignity are being violated.

Since the al-Ta'if accord, our army has gone a long way toward establishing its security and national credentials. However, this progress was not matched by support from our brothers and friends, with the exception of sister Syria. Despite its known financial limitations, Syria has never hesitated to provide direct assistance to our military institutions.

I would like to pay a special tribute to our Lebanese Army, which we entrust once more with the mission of protecting our sovereignty, the safety of our land, citizens, and the achievements we made since al-Ta'if accord.

I would also like to express to your venerable council my belief that the best way to help Lebanon is to help our army extend the state's authority and end the Israeli occupation and its consequences.

The Lebanese have once more closed ranks in defense of their national rights and in the face of Israeli aggression. The Lebanese will remain united in their determination to rebuild their country. Their effort to rebuild Lebanon is the natural answer to the aims of the aggression.

Through its aggression, Israel is trying to intimidate Lebanon, a country that is still smarting after 17 years of war. Lebanon, with all its sects and sectors, has a genuine political will to rebuild itself and maintain the progress it has made since the al-Ta'if accord.

Thus, we want you with us at this delicate moment. We want a frank and clear stand by all the brothers to help Lebanon repulse and face the results of aggression. We look forward to an extraordinary moment of Arab solidarity. While appreciating the initiatives made by the sisterly governments, we believe it is our duty to concentrate on the need for Arab contributions in securing the immediate return of the displaced persons, with all that this entails in terms of the energy and assistance to restore normal life to the destroyed villages. Combining our efforts toward that end will help us prevent Israel from achieving its goals and schemes to uproot the inhabitants of the south and western al-Biqa' from their regions.

Brothers: Lebanon and south Lebanon have made many sacrifices, both in terms of lives and property, and the Lebanese have sacrificed dearly in defense of the Arab land and dignity. Every day, they face continuous Israeli aggression, which is targeting the entire Arab nation. If we may send greetings of appreciation and gratitude to the Lebanese people and the people of the south and western al-Biqa' for the lives they are sacrificing, it is more worthwhile for us to agree on specific Arab measures and recommendations that could consolidate our credibility before the world community and show the whole world our capability and seriousness when we make up our minds on a matter of destiny.

Brothers: Prove wrong those who still believe that the Arabs are incapable of taking a unified position. Prove wrong those who still believe that this nation is incapable of facing the challenges. Let us prove to the whole world that we are an active people who hold fast to their rights, are determined to safeguard them, are loyal to their history, and have faith in their future.

We thank you for your response to Lebanon's invitation. We thank Syria for hosting the conference. May peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Lebanon Proposes Draft Resolution

JN3007205493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told journalists tonight that Lebanon has proposed a draft resolution to the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council. He said the draft emphasizes Arab solidarity and the need for intervention to secure an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression and to support Lebanon in the process of returning the refugees to their villages and homes. He said this draft calls for the formation and the immediate dispatch of a ministerial committee, including the Arab League secretary general, to New York to meet with the UN secretary general and the representatives of the UN Security Council member states. Buwayz said: I believe the delicacy of the current stage requires that we make swift decisions.

Secretary General Comments on Proposal

NC3107075793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Damascus by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, we start this dialogue with you following the start to emergency meetings of the Arab League Council foreign ministers. Could you tell us about the Arab stance on the situation in Lebanon in light of the continuing Israeli attacks on south Lebanon?

['Abd-al-Majid] Of course, the Lebanese request was met with an immediate response by all the Arab countries. Currently, the meeting is taking place in Damascus. The series of contacts beforehand was very extensive. There have been many meetings with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and many foreign ministers. We took part in these meetings with the objective of providing all the necessary support and backing for Lebanon's stance and condemning the oppressive Israeli aggression on south Lebanon. Undoubtedly, the situation is dangerous. It violates all the norms of international legitimacy to which we adhere. The Arab League asks the international community to end the Israeli aggression on south Lebanon and make it respect Security Council Resolution 425. The aggression has made tens of thousands of Lebanese people homeless and destroyed their homes. This is something we cannot accept or remain quiet about. The international community must confront this situation. The Israeli operations threaten the peace process, which we wish to continue, enabling it to achieve peace and stability in the region.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, it is known that the Arab League adopted a clear and frank stance on the Israeli escalation in south Lebanon. In a recent statement, the Arab League warned against the escalation. The same day, Israel carried out a flagrant aggression on south Lebanon. Have you held any contacts with the UN secretary general?

['Abd-al-Majid] We are in constant contact with the UN secretary general and the concerned countries. In the statement issued on the first day the aggression took place, we defined the Arab League's stance, to which we adhere. The Arab countries' commitment to this stance is also clear. I believe the immediate response to the Lebanese request to meet in Damascus was just further evidence of Arab solidarity during the crisis Lebanon is experiencing, solidarity that is quite strong. During this sensitive time, the Arab countries will put aside their differences, support Lebanon, and adopt a united position.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel claims the aggression on south Lebanon targets the Lebanese Resistance. Do you believe there are other objectives behind this Israeli aggression on south Lebanon?

['Abd-al-Majid] There is no doubt Israel wants to shake Lebanon internally, after it began to stabilize.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Officials Censure Israeli 'Aggression'

JN3107123593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has strongly denounced Israel's continuing aggression against fraternal Lebanon.

In an interview with TISHRIN, [words indistinct] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that at a time when all Arab countries are concerned with achieving peace, Israel continues its aggression against Lebanon. He said this aggression is in fact an aggression against peace.

The Arab League Secretary General refuted Israel's allegation that it achieves security through this aggression. He said security can only be achieved through just and comprehensive peace and an end to the occupation.

'Abd-al-Majid called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities, stop the treacherous Israeli aggression, and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

'Abd-al-Majid asked Israel to stop its aggressive operations and withdraw from southern Lebanon, emphasizing that the Arab people in Lebanon have the right to resist the occupation of their land.

For his part, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa emphasized the need to demonstrate effective Arab solidarity with Lebanon in confronting the Israeli aggression against its southern part.

In an interview with TISHRIN, Musa demanded an immediate cease-fire, stressing that Israel's continued aggression against the Lebanese territories is unjustified.

In an interview with the same newspaper, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that through its timing, and method, the continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon proves that is not a reaction to any operation, but is programmed in a political and a well-studied manner.

Buwayz rejected Israel's pretext that the aggression is a retaliation for the resistance operations. He said that this pretext is void and does not stand against the truth, stressing that through its aggression, Israel aims to create a wider border belt, abort Christopher's mission, broaden the aggression in order to dictate its conditions on the Arabs, and displace a greater number of Lebanese.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister noted that Israel will not be able to achieve its objectives. He said: Our political equation will not change and the Lebanese people responded to the aggression in an exemplary manner, proving that they are mighty people and capable of standing up to the aggression.

Buwayz renewed his praise of Syria's role toward the aggression on fraternal Lebanon. He said that Lebanon has no doubt whatsoever about Syria's support for it, noting that the credibility of Arab solidarity is being tested today.

Buwayz pointed to the danger posed by the Israeli aggression on the peace process, and said the aggression will undoubtedly upset the process, and stressed that Lebanon does not accept to negotiate under the threat of cannons.

Buwayz criticized the U.S. position on the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and said: This is a timid position that is satisfied with media posture, without pressuring Israel to stop its aggression. He asked whether the Security Council is still present and practicing its powers, and said: The absence of international legitimacy is the reason for the current international confusion.

Ministerial Council Issues Resolution

JN3107133093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 31 Jul 93

["Text" of resolution issued at the conclusion of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council in Damascus on 31 July; read by 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general—recorded]

[Text] The Arab League Council, having taken cognizance of the memorandum of the General Secretariat and the memorandum of the Lebanese Government No. C/40-45/93 dated 28 July 1993 calling for a council emergency session in Damascus on 30 July 1993 to discuss the sinful and continued Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory;

Having listened to the Lebanese chief delegate's briefing on the Israeli aggression;

Having assessed the grave impact of the escalation of the Israeli aggression since 25 July 1993 on Lebanon's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, the entire Arab region, and on the peace negotiations, which began in Madrid in 1991;

In view of the tragic developments of this aggression, which so far has resulted in more than 125 martyrs and more than 500 wounded, in addition to the displacement of more than 300,000 citizens as a result of the total and partial destruction of scores of Lebanese towns and villages, especially in the south, in western al-Biqa', and in some Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon;

Having been notified of the heavy damages that the aggression has caused in the Lebanese territories targeted by the Israeli land, sea, and air bombardment;

Following with extreme concern and denunciation Israel's policy of changing the situation in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' through the depopulation of these areas and preventing the return of normalcy to them;

Having considered with extreme interest the consequences of this aggression, its effects on pan-Arab security, and the threat it poses to international peace and security, thus reflecting an exposed Israeli scheme to destroy the peace process and to evade relevant UN resolutions;

Having recalled all resolutions adopted by Arab summit conferences and the League Council on Arab solidarity with the Lebanese Government to end the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territory and to support the Lebanese Government in all its measures to bring an end to this occupation in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 425;

Stemming from the principles of international legitimacy, represented by the UN Charter, the World Human Rights Declaration, and the Arab League Charter;

In implementation of the joint Arab action covenants, decides:

1. To affirm the Arab states' solidarity with Lebanon—its government and people—in confronting the Israeli aggression;

2. To strongly condemn the fierce and continued Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory, which has targeted Lebanon's sovereignty, the safety of its children, and the inviolability of its territory, airspace, and territorial waters;

3. To urge the international community and the UN Security Council to take all necessary measures and steps, including those stipulated in Chapter 7 of the UN charter, to immediately halt the Israeli aggression and force Israel to implement Resolution 425;

4. To set up a ministerial committee comprising the session chairman, the Lebanese foreign minister, and the Arab league secretary general to hold urgent contacts with the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council presidency and members to ensure an immediate end to the aggression and the implementation of Resolution 425;

5. To offer $500 million in urgent financial aid to Lebanon. The Arab League secretary general, in coordination with the Lebanese Government, will contact the member states to determine and ensure the payment of their share in this aid in order to:

- Provide immediate aid to the Lebanese Government to finance a secure and quick return of the displaced people to the villages from which they were displaced as a result of the vicious Israeli aggression;
- To finance the rehabilitation and reequiping of the Lebanese Army to enable it to spread the government's authority over all Lebanese territory.

6. To intensify political and media contacts with the various international parties to expose the falsity of the Israeli claims, which aim to distort the image of the resistance against occupation, as well as the racist hostile campaigns associated with these claims;

7. To urge world and humanitarian organizations and agencies to urgently provide the necessary aid to Lebanon to help it face the tragic conditions resulting from the Israeli aggression;

8. To consider the Council's current session open and to authorize the session's chairman to call the Council into session when the need arises;

9. To thank the Syrian Arab Republic—president, government, and people—for hosting this emergency session and for the facilities it provided, which have greatly helped ensure the success of this session.

'Abd-al-Majid: Arabs Want Justice, Peace

JN3107173093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that the ministerial committee created by the Damascus emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers is working out a definition of its functions. He said the committee plans to contact the UN secretary general and the president and members of the UN Security Council. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid indicated that an implementation mechanism with a mandate to initiate contacts is being put in place.

Speaking at a news conference in Umayyad Palace, 'Abd-al-Majid said the peace processs was not addressed by the Arab foreign ministers. The Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon was the only topic on their agenda, he said.

Alongside high-level diplomatic contacts, said 'Abd-al-Majid, a mechanism is being formed. He noted that the Israeli aggression was bound to be discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he arrived in the region.

'Abd-al-Majid indicated it is possible to find a way out through diplomacy and to bring stability back to the region.

The Arabs are advocating justice, stability, and peace, and not out of weakness, he said. 'Abd-al-Majid said Arab demands must receive urgent attention. He said the use of force will fail to deliver Israel's objectives. Such an approach by Israel, he declared, will only serve to make the other side even more determined to stand up to brutal aggression.

Asked about support and funding for the Lebanese military, 'Abd- al-Majid said the ministers decided to extend material support to the Lebanese Army to help it reassert its authority. As to how the plan will work out in practice, this will be taken up with the Lebanese Government, which, he said, will have the final say in the matter. It will be up to him as Arab League secretary general to coordinate things. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the ministers paid special attention to the question of rearming the Lebanese Army, which he called Lebanon's safety valve.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon's sovereignty is a major threat to regional stability.

League Official on Boycott, Resistance

JN0208090593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Interview with Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus carried within the "Today's Guest" feature; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Imam] Mr. 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League Assistant secretary general, how do you assess the recent Arab League Council's meeting in Damascus that discussed the Israeli aggression against Lebanon?

['Imran] An objective assessment of the Arab League session Syria had hosted in Damascus shows that it was a successful session in every sense of the word. An atmosphere of accord prevailed the session. This reflects a real change in Arab thinking after the great rift that has resulted from the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Let me say that this session was characterized by pan-Arab sentiments, an awareness of the future dangers, and the realization that Israel does not actually threaten Lebanon only. Israel exercises the policy of aggression which pays no heed to the international community. Israel also is ready to defy international norms. With this approach, Israel poses a threat to every Arab country in the region. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Imam] How do you view Israel's efforts and calls to halt the resistance, and was this issue discussed during the session?

['Imran] The issue was not discussed on the basis that an Arab party had asked for halting the resistance. The resistance to occupation is a principle. All the Arab countries believe in this principle. It is also a principle acknowledged by the UN Charter. It is a principle that was adopted by all people. It goes without saying that had it not been for this resistance, countries would not have national days. The national day of any country is the anniversary of liberation and resistance to occupation, and subsequently the attainment of independence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Imam] Is the Arab League subjected to western pressures to have it end the Arab boycott of Israel, and what do you have to say on some Arab countries' attempts to terminate this boycott?

['Imran] I will be frank and will note this fact. Some western countries have brought pressure to bear on the Arab League to have it end the boycott. These countries continue to exercise such pressures. The Arab League's reply was clear and explicit.

[Al-Imam] Which are these countries?

['Imran] These countries know themselves. They announced their names at the industrial summit. They are the major countries which adopted a decision at the

latest Tokyo industrial summit calling on the Arab countries to end the boycott.

First of all, this stand contradicts these countries behavior. Economic boycott is something the United States and some western countries have become masters at, even without there being a real cause for such a boycott as the Arabs have in boycotting Israel.

The Arab boycott is the result of occupation. It is a legitimate measure in the face of a situation that is rejected by international law and legitimacy. How then can we accept to terminate the result before the cause? The Arab boycott will continue. If Israel pursues its aggression, this boycott will be intensified. Perhaps, we might think about adopting more effective measures and means to counter this Israeli madness and skill in killing children and defenseless people.

I would like here to say the following: The casualty toll announced in Lebanon shows that from among the 129 Lebanese dead, there was only one soldier, and five or six who were accused of being members of the Lebanese resistance. Most of the remaining 119 victims are children and the others are women and elderly people. What madness, and what crimes Israel is constantly perpetrating! The boycott will continue until the occupation and aggression end. I do not believe there is a single Arab country that can accept to give up the boycott unless this is done through an Arab consensus that will take place within the Arab League framework. I affirm to you that with respect to the Arab League such a decision will not be made until the Israeli occupation of every inch of Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem, is terminated. The Arab countries have made this decision. I would like to recall Resolution 50/92 adopted in the September 1991 session in which the Arab countries stressed they will not accept a peace that will not restore complete Arab rights without any relinquishment of one inch of land. Israel should understand this. We are fighting through the peace talks—we have chosen this path—to regain the occupied Arab territories and the full Arab rights and not to give up any of these rights.

Libyan Delegation Addresses Meeting

LD0108184693 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus Hanibal [Aug] 1 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Great Jamahariyah's delegation to the emergency Conference of the Arab League's Foreign Ministers held in Damascus asserted the unequivocal rejection of the Zionist's savage aggression against the Lebanese Arab people. The delegation reaffirmed the Great Jamahariyah's unconditional support for and solidarity with the Lebanese people and their legitimate right to resist Zionist occupation and confront the aggression.

The delegation pointed out that the aggression constituted a serious threat to the Arab nation and international peace and security which require the application of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter in dealing with this aggression.

In its speech to the conference, the delegation urged Arab countries to adhere to the application of all conventions regarding joint Arab defence amongst them the Arab Defence Pact and the unification of the Arab stance and participation in consolidating the Lebanese Army in defence of its territory and protection of Lebanese national sovereignty.

The delegation made clear that the aggression was not aimed at Lebanon alone but also at sisterly Syria. It said that the matter required Arab participation in the repulsion of aggression and that the Arab stance should be a fighting and not a mediating stance in order to protect Lebanese territory.

The delegation stressed that considering the principles of the Great al-Fatah Revolution and pan Arabist [word indistinct], the Great Jamahariyah shall contribute to any Arab effort or collective Arab measure to halt this savage aggression.

Moroccan, Egyptian Ministers Depart

JN3107153093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Damascus today after attending the Arab League Council emergency session. They were seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur.

Tunisian Minister Departs

JN3107165693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—Said Ben Mustafa, Tunisia's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus today after attending the Arab League Council emergency ministerial session.

He was seen off at Damascus' southern entrance by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, heads of Foreign Ministry departments, and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

Gulf Ministers Leave Damascus

JN3107173893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state for cabinet affairs; 'Abdallah Bin- Hamad Bu-Sa'idi, Oman's Arab League representative; and Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mahmud, Qatari Foreign Ministry under secretary, left

Damascus this evening after participating in the Arab League Council's emergency meeting which was held in Damascus.

Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Foreign Ministry departments directors, and the ambassadors of these countries saw them off at Damascus international airport.

Lebanese Foreign minister Faris Buwayz and his accompanying delegation, and Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs, also left Damascus this evening.

UAE Delegation Departs

JN3107203593 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at noon today.

Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, foreign ministry departments directors, and the UAE charge d'affaires in Damascus were present at Damascus international to see him off.

Mustafa Kamal 'Abdallah, Bahraini ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative to the Arab League, also left Damascus today. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general; and Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, Sudanese foreign minister, also left Damascus after attending the Arab League Council's emergency meeting.

Yemen's Basindwah, Iraq's Envoy Depart

JN0108162193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Damascus today after attending the Arab League Council's emergency session in Damascus.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, also left Damascus after participating in the meeting.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Munib al- Rifa'i, director of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, and the assistant to the chief of protocol at the ministry.

Arab Parliamentary Union Council Holds Session in Beirut

Syria's Qaddurah Speaks

NC3107101193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0805 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Speech by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Syrian People's Assembly speaker and current president of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council, APUC, at the APUC's 24th extraordinary session, in the Chamber of Deputies building in al-Najmah Square in Beirut—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Zionist enemy justifies its new fierce aggression by claiming it wants to guarantee the security of settlers and settlements and end the national resistance against its occupation. It conveniently forgets that this occupation is the reason for the resistance, which in essence is a legitimate national struggle stipulated by UN laws and other international norms and charters. The struggle has not stopped since Israel occupied south Lebanon in 1982. This new Israeli aggression follows the 10th round of peace talks, which Israeli belligerence brought to a dead end, before the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region; the United States is one of the cosponsors of the peace process. The aggression first confirms Israel's aggressive and expansionist nature, its flagrant defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy and will, and its rejection of the peace process.

The Israeli objectives behind the aggression are clear. These are: To cover up the Israeli stances rejecting peace in the Middle East and to put pressure on the Arab sides participating in the talks to accept Israeli conditions, thus preventing the peace process from reaching its logical conclusion. This conclusion is Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Second, to find excuses not to implement Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating an unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from south Lebanon.

Third, to create a split in the Lebanese reconciliation march, the basis of which was set out through the successful implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord. This was clearly expressed by the Lebanese president when he said this fierce attack is not because of a missile falling here or another there, but to strike Lebanese solidarity.

Therefore, dear brothers, through its aggression, Israel is committing a double crime. In addition to the war of annihilation it is waging in steadfast south Lebanon, it is deliberately threatening the situation in the whole region and destroying the peace process. Further, the new Israeli aggression comes at the same time as its escalation of its terrorist practices against our Palestinian Arab people and their brave intifadah inside occupied Palestine. It has transformed the occupied West Bank and

Gaza Strip into a mass detention camp where the basest methods of oppression and terrorism are practiced. It refuses to allow the deportees to return to their land and families in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799.

Dear brother members of the council: We all know the new Israeli aggression takes place under new international circumstances controlled by one hegemonizing pole in the hands of which lies the key to solution or (?rejection). This pole is the United States. Regrettably, this competent power has taken no serious stance to deter the aggressor behind this fierce, large-scale, criminal, and continuing aggression on a UN member country and a participant in the peace process. We all know it can.

Although Israel is waging its aggression on the steadfast south, exploiting its distinctive military superiority, the weakness of the Arab countries, and the absence of Arab solidarity, it is using the new international order and the double standards applied by the power hegemonizing the world, especially when the issue deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict, an issue that casts doubt on the credibility of the United Nations and international legitimacy. The credibility of the international organization and the effectiveness of its presence in the international arena have always been characterized by its playing a peaceful role stemming from the essence of its Charter and without external effects.

On the subject of Lebanon, the Security Council passed Resolution 425 stipulating the unconditional withdrawal of occupation forces from the south. While the world knows one of the objectives of the new Israeli aggression is to dodge implementing this resolution, it begs the question: Why doesn't the Security Council take the necessary measures to implement its resolution? It can.

While we declare our total condemnation and comprehensive denial of the criminal Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon, which we fully support and with which we feel solidarity, we see the need for the full and immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. We also call on the Arab governments and the Arab League to request a Security Council meeting to demand the implementation of the UN Charter's Chapter Seven on the situation in south Lebanon, adopt all the necessary measures to force Israel to stop its aggression on Lebanon and withdraw its forces from the occupied Lebanese south, and allow the deployment of the legitimate Lebanese army over all Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Address by Lebanon's Birri

NC3107111293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0817 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Speech By Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, at the Arab Parliamentary Union Council, APUC, 24th session in the Chamber of Deputies building in al-Najmah Square in Beirut—live]

[Excerpts] 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the current president of the 24th session, brother speakers, and representatives of the Arab parliaments: I would like to welcome you and thank you for coming to this extraordinary session held for the first time in Lebanon. The session aims to strengthen the official effort of the Arab nation and the world to end the Israeli war against Lebanon. The bitterness we feel at the Arabs' failure to fulfill several commitments toward Lebanon before and after the al-Ta'if Accord prompts us to tell you frankly that all the Arabs offer is flowery language on official occasions. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, brothers, Lebanon and the Arab nation are at this historic moment faced with a fateful test represented by Israeli land, air, and sea operations targeting all Arabs by subjugating Lebanon. In war, Israel seeks to keep Lebanon hostage to the regional crisis. And, should a settlement be reached, Israel seeks to abolish Lebanon as a rival on every level to impose itself as a free international market for production, marketing, and planning in the Middle East.

Israel used the firing of a katyusha in this political situation to impose a new fait accompli to open the door for political negotiations according to Israeli security conditions. Israel pushes the multilateral talks in an attempt to bypass the necessary conditions for a fair peace in line with a convenient economic status in the new regional and world order.

Arabs who want peace cannot accept less than all their occupied territories in return for anything less than total peace. This equation is outlined in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel is trying to impose an equation according to which it wants peace for peace without paying a price or total peace in return for less than all the occupied territories.

On the Lebanese territories, Israel's and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's assumptions, as agreed with the United States, provide for preparedness to withdraw to the international border as a basis for a settlement, while supposing that an agreement on military arrangements with Lebanon will be achieved. The Israelis ask Syria to make indirect commitment through the Americans to withdraw from Lebanon and to refrain from supporting any resistance against Israel from Lebanese territory. The Israelis want the Syrians to exercise influence with the Lebanese Government to enter negotiations with the aim of reaching a Lebanese-Israeli agreement on security arrangements. The security arrangements entail that Israel define the Lebanese Army weapons and ammunition on Lebanese land in the south and force Lebanon to assimilate the cliques that Israel armed and trained and used as sand bags in the border strip. Israel wants these cliques to guard Israeli borders while it reserves the right to conduct air, land, and sea monitoring. In practice, this means abolishing the role of the UN emergency forces deployed in south Lebanon so that their use will not become a model for use on the Arab-Israeli borders. Israel is still without declared or constitutional borders.

This is Rabin's plan for the Lebanese issue. He proposed it when he was defense minister. [passage omitted]

The Israeli army is these days opening the bloodiest terrorist chapter in Lebanon. Frankly speaking, it is using its utmost power against Lebanon. Anyone who tries to draw a comparison between the 1982 invasion and the 1993 invasion is mistaken. This is the most dangerous and most fierce invasion. We would like to offer a document of Zionist crimes represented by a statement by the Israeli artillery commander in an interview with Israeli radio on 28 July. He said the artillery men had no time to breathe and that a soldier gets only a 20-minute respite every 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Events are a premeditated, programmed destruction on the orders of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This destruction targets cities, towns, and villages and aims to obliterate the possibilities for life in these areas. Will this destruction lead to the goal Rabin wants to achieve? In his book on the war in Lebanon, which he published after the 1982 invasion, Rabin gives the answer. In chapter one, he said intensive aerial bombardment did not and could not prevent the firing of katyusha rockets. [passage omitted]

How can Rabin explain the contradiction between his statement in his book and what he is doing now in south Lebanon? How can he reconcile his two contradictory positions when he now embarks on the use of force when he is in power? The reason for the Israeli operation is not the firing of katyushas. The reason is that he simply wants something else from the negotiations. He wants something from Syria specifically. Let us be frank. This is his goal unless he is misleading the Americans who made him, the Israelis who elected him at the expense of Lebanon, and the Lebanese to avoid any accusations of being unable to try the experience of peace, the slogan of which he raised to win power.

Gentlemen, the killing and destruction are not just an issue of settling scores with Lebanon. Rabin himself said the destruction is intended to put pressure on Lebanon through the eviction of people. There is no room for reaching other conclusions. Let us be frank. The Rabin government is facing the world with contradictory positions. Israel uprooted 400 Palestinians from their homeland and deported them to Lebanon. It is uprooting 400,000 Lebanese from their land in south Lebanon thereby turning them into people deprived of their homes in their own homeland. Israel seeks to abolish the Arab opposition represented in the intifadah and the Lebanese national resistance in return for an ambiguous peace formula. The Rabin government is embarking on a ridiculous, impossible mechanical process of separating its military operations against the Lebanese and Palestinians from its continuous participation in the Washington peace talks.

It is a ludicrous irony for Israel to turn Lebanon into a firing range and then request the Lebanese Army to remain neutral and not defend the land it was established to defend. It wants the Lebanese Army to sit idly by while its homeland is abolished.

We in Lebanon openly declare that the responsibility for exhausting the enemy and evicting him from our land is our own. No matter how brutal the Israeli aggression, it will not frighten us or make us despair or undermine our people's endurance.

Mr. President, brothers: On behalf of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, I call through this session for backing Lebanon's march and consolidating the concepts and conditions for its steadfastness. We do not fear the Israeli age, but we want the south to really be the south of the Arabs. So, we hope for the following:

1. Launching strong Arab moves to implement Security Council Resolution 425, because peace depends on implementing this resolution, which constitutes the ceiling for the negotiator and bargainer. This entails the following:

a. Acting to turn the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating in south Lebanon into deterrent UN forces.

b. Demanding that the UN secretary general secure the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the UNIFIL areas of operation in reparation for implementing Resolution 425, as was the case before 1982. The Lebanese Army is not allowed to enter the liberated UNIFIL areas, whereas it is allowed to exist along with the Israelis and with the Antoine Lahd army in other areas.

2. Supporting Lebanon on international forums, especially concerning the current complaint against the Israeli aggression lodged with the Security Council, condemning the aggression and calling for stopping Israeli military operations on Lebanese territories and withdrawing the Israeli forces. We are not demanding the return of the displaced people to their homes, because we cannot expect a resolution on this issue. All the people of the south who came to Beirut and other areas will assemble on Monday [2 August] to march to the south, even under bombardment. This aggression is not only aimed at destroying the south; it seeks to end the reconstruction process here. It wants to scuttle the al-Ta'if Accord and to fragment Lebanon and make it return to sectarian cantons. I want to say the Lebanese people do not differentiate between East and West Beirut or between a Christian and a Muslim. [applause] Before the first Kuwaiti airliner arrived with relief aid, all Lebanese homes were open to welcome and help the people of the south. We will assemble within 24 hours to march together to the south. Let them know that Lebanon will resist the Israeli aggression.

So, we call for supporting Lebanon at the Security Council, on condemning the Israeli aggression, stopping the Israeli military operations, and withdrawing the Israeli forces.

3. Calling for punishing Israel for its crimes according to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. We ask Jews everywhere, not the Zionists, how they can support a state that declares it evicts people from their homes, while they suffered a lot under the Nazis.

4. Emphasizing the Lebanese people's right to resist the Israeli occupation. This right is recognized by international law and norms and is outlined in the al-Ta'if Accord, which is backed by the Arabs and the international community.

5. Considering that the settlement [taswiyah] negotiations as they are constitute a cover for the Israeli aggression, provide indications of the collapse of these negotiations, and confirm that Israel torpedoes all international gambles on their outcome. This means the negotiations now have the role of managing the aggression instead of discussing the implementation of UN resolutions, applying the principles of international law, and ending the occupation.

6. Blaming the United States for the aggression and calling on it to assume its international responsibilities toward the aggression and to adopt tangible measures to stop the aggression, return the displaced people, and launch an investigation into the immoral use of U.S. weapons and equipment by Israel in committing war crimes against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians.

7. Providing all the necessary aid for building the state in Lebanon and extending its authority and translating this into practical steps through the fulfilling of Arab and international pledges.

8. Gentlemen, I am entitled to demand—and frankly I conveyed this to the conference of the brother Arab foreign ministers in Damascus last night—material support for reconstruction. Lebanon is entitled to this. It is the duty of all those who are capable. Lebanon is entitled to this because we are standing fast on your behalf. We are entitled to demand immediate aid for the official Lebanese institutions, led by the South Council, the Ministries of Refugees and Social Affairs, and all the service ministries, to launch a major campaign to rebuild what Israel has deliberately destroyed to empty the south.

9. Providing aid to the Lebanese Army, which faces fateful challenges and shoulders the responsibility of defense and security with its known humble means.

Mr. President, brothers: At the conclusion of my speech, I extend profound thanks to the Syrian president, Government, Army, and people for their continuous aid to Lebanon. I also emphasize that Lebanon continues to constitute the first line of defense for the Arab nation, its strategic depth, and its wealth, particularly the oil. It should not be disregarded today because of a deceptive move based on separating oil security from Israel's security. The collapse of the south means the collapse of Lebanon and the collapse of Lebanon means the collapse of the Arab nation. We are determined to pass this test for the sake of our country and nation. [passage omitted]

Resolutions Adopted

NC3107203193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Resolutions of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council following its meeting in Beirut on 31 July; read by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzili—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At 1900 on Saturday, 31 July 1993, the Arab Parliamentary Union Council [APUC] held its final session and heard a [words indistinct] received from the Democratic International Arab Conference in which it saluted the APUC for its solidarity with Lebanon and called on the Arab parliamentarians to support without limits the [words indistinct] the resistance and the south.

The council then heard the report prepared by the drafting committee and unanimously approved the following resolutions:

The APUC, meeting in its 24th extraordinary session in Beirut on 31 July 1993, expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli aggressive action against the Lebanese territory, which led to wide-scale and unprecedented destruction of the villages and towns of southern Lebanon, western al-Biqa', and the Palestinian camps, to hundreds of civilians dead and wounded, and to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of residents in the areas targeted by the attacks in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

The council maintains that this aggressive action constitutes an aggressive action against the entire Arab nation and a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 425. It is also a challenge to the will of the international community and a flagrant violation of human rights and the other international and human values and norms.

The council also maintains that this aggressive action confirms Israel's aggressive and expansionist disposition and constitutes a serious blow to the Middle East negotiations through which Israel is seeking to cover up its intransigent positions that led these talks to an impasse and to pressure the Arab parties participating in the negotiations to accept the Israeli conditions.

The council rejects the justifications offered by Israel for its new aggression that it is defending the Israeli settlements. The council maintains that these justifications are a pretext to cover up the aggressive actions, which are designed, among other things, to empty the Lebanese south of its residents; cause a rift in the process of Lebanese national reconciliation; jeopardize the al-Ta'if Accord, which is upheld by all segments of the Lebanese people and supported on the Arab and international

levels; and undermine Syrian-Lebanese relations represented in the Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation Treaty. The council maintains that the Israeli aggressive action in southern Lebanon and the repressive actions against the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab residents in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan are two sides of the same policy that Israel is pursuing, a policy which is designed to avoid the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 and the other resolutions pertaining to the Middle East and the Palestinian issue and Resolution 799 pertaining to the Palestinian deportees, to achieve its expansionist aims.

The council salutes the residents of southern Lebanon and the Lebanese resistance and affirms the need to extend all types of support and assistance for the continuation of this resistance as long as the occupation exists.

The council praises the cohesion and unity of the Lebanese forces in the face of the Israeli aggressive actions and expresses confidence that their solidarity and cohesion will continue in order to confront the Israeli designs aimed at destroying Lebanon's unity and preventing its reconstruction.

The council affirms the need to extend the Lebanese state's legitimate authority to all parts of the Lebanese territory through the adoption of measures that would ensure the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 as the main condition for the liberation of the occupied Lebanese territory and restoring Lebanese sovereignty to all national soil.

The council resolves to:

1. Launch strong Arab moves to implement Security Council Resolution 425 because peace is contingent on implementing this resolution, which constitutes the ceiling for the Lebanese negotiator and resistance member. This entails the following:

a. Acting to turn the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating in south Lebanon into deterrent UN forces.

b. Demanding that the UN secretary general secure deployment of the Lebanese Army in the UNIFIL areas of operation in reparation for implementing Resolution 425 as was the case before 1982.

2. Support Lebanon in international forums, especially the current Lebanese protest against the Israeli aggressive actions lodged with the Security Council that condemns the aggression and calls for stopping Israeli military operations on Lebanese territories and withdrawing Israeli forces.

3. Call for punishing Israel for its noncompliance according to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

4. Emphasize the Lebanese people's right to resist the Israeli occupation. This right is recognized by international law and norms.

5. Consider that the current negotiations are a cover for the Israeli aggressive actions, show indications of the collapse of these negotiations, and confirm that Israel torpedoes all international wagers on their outcome. This means the negotiations now have the role of managing the aggressive actions instead of discussing the implementation of UN resolutions, applying the principles of international law, and ending the occupation.

6. Hold the United States responsible for the aggressive actions and call on it to assume its international responsibilities toward the aggressive actions and to adopt tangible measures to stop it, return the displaced people, and launch an investigation into the immoral use of U.S. weapons and equipment by Israel in committing war crimes against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians.

7. Provide all the necessary aid for building the state in Lebanon and extending its authority and translating this into practical steps through fulfilling Arab and international pledges.

8. Extend immediate aid to Lebanese official institutions—which are led by the South Council, the Ministries of Refugees and Social Affairs, and all the service ministries—to launch a major campaign to rebuild what Israel has deliberately destroyed in order to empty the south.

9. Provide aid to the Lebanese Army, which faces fateful challenges and shoulders the responsibility of defense and security with its known humble means.

10. Launch an urgent Arab parliamentary effort:

a. Urging Arab governments to reestablish Arab solidarity and mobilize all Arab resources to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation.

b. Urging world parliaments and the international and regional parliamentary organizations to expose the objectives of the Israeli aggressive actions and asking them to condemn it and declare their solidarity with the Lebanese people in their struggle to liberate their land and begin reconstruction.

Issued in Beirut on 31 July 1993 by the 24th extraordinary session of the APUC.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi: Little Expected From Christopher Visit

NC0108113493 Paris AFP in English 1115 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 1 (AFP)—The Palestinian peace delegation expect little to emerge from meetings this week with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Sunday [1 August].

"With the deadlock we have reached, it's very difficult to achieve anything," 'Ashrawi told AFP.

Christopher is expected in Jerusalem on Tuesday and again Thursday after visiting Cairo, Amman and Damascus in a bid to narrow the gap at the negotiations, particularly between Israel and the Palestinians.

He is expected to carry a new draft of a U.S. document of principles for pushing ahead with Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The Palestinians rejected an earlier draft because it suggested the status of Jerusalem be left for several years until a final settlement is negotiated, as Israel wishes.

"We don't want to discuss the U.S. document at all. We want to discuss the deadlock in the peace process," 'Ashrawi said, underlining that East Jerusalem was occupied territory and had to be part of any area over which the Palestinians are given interim autonomy.

The meetings will take place under the shadow of Israel's seven-day pounding of Lebanon, which was called off Saturday night after an "understanding" brokered by the United States.

"It is positive that there has been a ceasefire but overall the operation has negatively affected the atmosphere for peace negotiations," she said.

"To allow Israel to use military power in order to impose its will shows there are great difficulties with the peace process." The United States should "assume its responsibilities to interfere".

"There should not be two logics, one military and one political," she added.

'Urayqat Reports Results of Meetings With U.S.

JN0108184693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 93 pp 1, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has revealed that the U.S. Administration told the Palestinian delegation that there is a real possibility of returning the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in significant groups and of returning another group of deportees expelled after 1967.

In a report presented to the Palestinian leadership after a meeting with a delegation from the U.S. Department of State, Dr. 'Urayqat said that Washington linked the Palestinians' acceptance of an early transfer of power with an ease in the PLO's financial crunch. He noted that the U.S. Administration stressed that this issue will be the nucleus of future Israeli-U.S. moves.

He said that the United States will not present any new proposals to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli delegation, but it will depend on the stands presented at the negotiating table.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that Washington considers the Palestinian delegation's stand, which demands discussing the issues of Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction, an attempt to take the peace process hostage and that the U.S. Administration rejects this.

The deputy head of the Palestinian delegation said that the U.S. Administration will not change its stand and will continue to consider Jerusalem and settlement building as issues to be dealt with in the final stage. He noted that the U.S. formula comes close to rejecting comprehensive territorial jurisdiction and favors dividing the jurisdiction into areas.

He said that the United States refused to pledge that Israel will not annex any part of the occupied territories, thus leaving the door open for the option of Israeli regional concessions, in a clear reference to the "Allon plan."

Continuing with his report, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the U.S. strategy relies on certain exclusions such as jobs, security, the early transfer of power, the improvement of living conditions, and easing the financial crisis on the PLO, until the Palestinians' approach the U.S. strategy and the U.S. document positively.

He said that the U.S. Administration insists on the adoption of its document as a basis for work so that it can be developed into other working papers in preparation for reaching a formula that is acceptable to the Palestinian and Israeli sides and would be the basis for discussion.

Dr. 'Urayqat added: The United States admitted that progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track means opening the way for progress on the other tracks. He noted that the Americans consider the Palestinian formula on territorial jurisdiction a prelude to further demands.

He noted that Washington will use a method of excluding certain issues from the discussions before dealing with the issues of territory, Jerusalem, and settlements. He noted that the U.S. stand did not change and that Washington is betting on a change in the interpretation of the Palestinian stand. 'Urayqat expressed his belief that the issues of Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction will remain part of the next stage, in accordance with the U.S. viewpoint.

Concluding his statement, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the U.S stands did not change and that Palestinian-U.S. differences remain on procedures, the terms of reference, the concept of the interim stage, the interpretation of Resolution 242, the concept of a full partner, the U.S. role, the situation on the ground, and the means to deal with this situation, including the PLO's financial crunch and the early transfer of power.

Al-Husayni Opposes Delaying Discussions on Jerusalem

JN0108101893 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, has said that it is not appropriate at all to delay discussion of occupied Jerusalem on the pretext that it is a sensitive issue that should be delayed until a later stage of negotiations, noting that the Palestinian stand is a principled one.

On whether there is a change in the Palestinian position toward the U.S. paper or the declaration of principles, brother Faysal al-Husayni emphasized that the Palestinian position on this paper is consistent and that this declaration of principles cannot be discussed as long as it considers the occupied Arab land a disputed territory.

He said the Americans were handed the formula that the Palestinian side believes is suitable for dealing with the Palestinian land on the basis of Resolution 242, which calls for Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories.

PLO's al-Hurani Advocates New Approach to Talks

JN3107085893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 93 pp 1, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—A ranking Palestinian official admitted that the PLO Executive Committee is no longer the decisionmaker and has no noteworthy role, explaining that since the Madrid conference, this committee has not discussed any affairs relating to the PLO or the Palestinian people.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, an independent member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that reports on the bilateral negotiations are presented to the committee members but that the multilateral negotiations are not tackled at all and no one knows anything about them.

Al-Hurani, who is also the head of the PLO Cultural Department, stressed that several attempts by Executive Committee members to put certain topics on the agenda of meetings were a failure, adding that the call for the convocation of the PLO Central Council was also a failure.

The Executive Committee member also emphasized that the committee assigned with following up the negotiations is also the party that decides the path that the negotiating Palestinian delegation follows.

Answering a question, he said the PLO's financial crisis has not been presented at any Executive Committee meeting, explaining that the attempts by some members to present this subject were overridden. He emphasized that no committee member knows the real financial condition of the PLO.

Al-Hurani said the PLO cultural, media, and unified information establishments have no information about, or link with, Palestinian television, saying: We saw the experimental transmission just like everyone else.

The head of the Cultural Department expressed concern that going to the 11th round of negotiations would be submitting to the Israeli-U.S. conditions, adding that going to this round will create a major division within the national Palestinian movement.

Al-Hurani called for new bases to the peace process in order to give it a new start. He said the Palestinians should not devote their efforts to futile talks; they should have talks whose sole objective is the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee member expressed belief that continuing the talks according to the current conditions is not only a waste of time but a deceit that will lead to national disaster. He urged the Palestinian leadership to reorganize the Palestinian house through a serious national dialogue that would lead to the formation of an integrated front comprising all parties, including the Hamas Movement.

Al-Hurani emphasized that the Palestinian leadership will be able to improve its weak position if it adheres to its national position, and that the masses would protect its position in the face of any pressures.

The Executive Committee member warned against encroaching on or trying to circumvent the cause of refugees. He said no one, including the leadership, can override this issue, which concerns 4.5 million Palestinians.

Comments on Financial Crisis

JN0208071993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" By Sawsan Ghawshah]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee no longer controls Palestinian decision-making and is kept in the dark about the financial affairs of the organisation, a senior member of the ruling committee charged Sunday.

'Abdallah al-Hurani, an independent member of the 15-man committee, would not name Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in his criticism, but the inherence was clear.

"According to the internal statute of the PLO, the Executive Committee should handle all the political and

financial matters of the organisation, but this is no longer happening," Mr. al-Hurani told the Jordan Times.

While the 21-month-old Middle East peace process has taken precedence over all other issues for the Palestinian leadership, the Executive Committee has little authority in guiding the negotiations, said Mr. al-Hurani, head of the Cultural Department of the Tunis-based PLO.

"We only meet at the end of each round of peace talks to hear the results of the round from the Palestinian delegates," he said.

Mr. al-Hurani said he was deliberately staying away from Executive Committee meeting, but he will not characterise it as a protest.

"Let me say that I am taking a break these days," he said.

Mr. al-Hurani said he did not oppose the peace talks, but had reservations over "the repeated concessions that the Palestinians have had to make and will have to make." He did not elaborate.

But his reference was to Palestinian frustration fuelled by Israel's rejection of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The focus of the negotiations on the final status of the territories will start in the third year of self-rule with little indication that they would lead to an independent Palestinian state.

Another senior PLO official who insisted on anonymity, said a PLO followup committee was directly in charge of guiding the Palestinian negotiators with Israel.

But, he said, "this committee includes only those members who extend total support for the talks in the way the negotitions are proceeding."

"Everyone who speaks up against the peace process and 'Arafat's policies is eased out of all significant positions in the PLO leadership," he added.

Mr. al-Hurani said the Executive Committee does not know of the financial status of the PLO except that funds are no longer available.

The PLO is facing severe financial problems after the oil-rich Gulf states stopped their generous contributions in retaliation for Mr. 'Arafat's support for Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

It is generally believed that Mr. 'Arafat, who retains total control of all PLO funds, has been withdrawing from PLO holdings abroad to finance the organisation's activities.

Senior PLO officials, mostly speaking in private, have repeatedly accused Mr. 'Arafat of keeping them in the dark about the funds.

The dispute has surfaced several times in closed meetings of the PLO Executive Committee as well as the leadership of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction and Mr. 'Arafat's power-base in the PLO, according to reports from Tunis.

Mr. 'Arafat recently ordered the closure of several PLO missions abroad and cut down assistance to the families of Palestinians killed or wounded while resisting the Israeli occupation.

AL-FAJR, an Arabic-language PLO-funded daily based in Arab east Jerusalem, was the latest reported casualty in the organisation's financial crunch.

"We do not really know anything about the PLO's financial status," said Mr. al-Hurani. "We can only guess what is happenning."

He warned that "if the present state of affairs continues and the peace process goes ahead in its present direction, then a catastrophe will occur and this is going to befall the PLO."

Unified National Leadership Issues Statement

LD0108214293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLU] believes that the recent political developments in the occupied homeland confirm the failure of the conditions and grounds of the U.S. settlement of the Palestinian issue, and that the popular intifadah in the occupied homeland, despite the ferocity and intensity of the onslaught against it, still constitutes the most prominent and significant event within the march of struggle of our people.

The UNLU has announced this in statement No. 97, issued this morning in the occupied homeland on the advent of the intifadah's 69th month.

The UNLU made clear that the reason behind the failure is the continued Israeli and American refusal to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, which stress the right of our people to self-determination on their national soil, pointing out that this non-adherence is considered an infringement of the Palestinian national identity and independent personality, which was crystallized and reinforced over long years of national struggle.

The UNLU commented on the confederation with Jordan, while stressing the position of the Palestinian National Council, around which our people have rallied, that this confederation would only be set up through the voluntary and free choice of the two peoples and would be made between two independent states. Therefore, the UNLU emphasizes the just rights of our people, represented by the right to return, self-determination, and the setting up of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Unified National Leadership welcomed the invitation to begin a comprehensive national dialogue aimed at consolidating national unity and mass rallying around the national program and continuing the struggle under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative. The Unified National Leadership considered this invitation an important operation that should be consolidated and supported by all loyal national capabilities and resists all pressures and schemes that aim at harming our people's steadfastness and their institutions.

The Unified National Leadership also stressed its rejection of all Zionist plots aiming at consolidating the stripping of Jerusalem of its character and the Judaization of the holy city of Jerusalem. It called on all institutions in Jerusalem not to move their headquarters out of the city and to strengthen the national presence inside the Old City by transferring the headquarters of institutions into the city.

About the Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon, the Unified National Leadership saluted the heroic steadfastness of the citizens of the south and their valiant resistance in confronting the Zionist war machine.

It commented on the state of silence vis-a-vis the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, saying that all those who showed apparent concern over the implementation of the unjust resolutions against the heroic people of Iraq are the very people who are today burying their heads in the sand when it comes to considering the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, as if the destruction, displacement, and murder taking place there do not concern any one of them or even need to be submitted before the Security Council.

Finally, the Unified National Leadership defined, in its statement, the regulations of the Palestinian struggle movement within the framework of the popular intifadah and the programs of the daily activities of resisting the occupation.

Abu-Sharif on Events in Lebanon, UN Resolutions

NC3107063293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Tunis by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Bassam Abu-Sharif, how can we describe the Israeli escalation and the new aggression on south Lebanon, which has targeted civilians and military men in the area at this crucial time, right before the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region and while the peace process is going on?

[Abu-Sharif] What the Israeli forces are carrying out in south and north Lebanon is an unprecedented operation to displace all the residents of a huge area of 40 km from the south Lebanese border toward Beirut. This operation is unprecedented in its bloody form and criminal objective. The Israeli Government has stalled the peace process during 10 rounds of talks to avoid discussing essential issues. These issues are the implementation of Security Council resolutions stipulating an end to its occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories. On the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region, the Israeli Government is carrying out this large-scale criminal campaign to divert attention from the essence of the issue and to create a new reality on the ground that the U.S. secretary of state will be forced to discuss. Thus, we see some steps that could lead, not only to hampering the peace process, but also to freezing or halting it, because what is happening now is new evidence that Israel does not want peace.

[Abu-al-Majd] Israel claims the objectives of this new offensive on south Lebanon and its residents, be they Lebanese or Palestinians displaced by Israel, is to restore calm to north Israel. Does this Israeli claim go along with its behavior in south Lebanon?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israeli Government is trying to blur the world's vision. The main reason for all the tension in the region is the presence of Israeli occupation forces on Lebanese territory. The Israeli occupation of part of south Lebanon is the reason for the resistance against the occupation. If there was no occupation there would be no resistance against it. The Lebanese people and strugglers have the right—granted by the UN Charter—to resist the occupation until it ends. It is Israel that does not implement Security Council resolutions, namely Resolution 425 on ending its occupation of part of south Lebanon. So the Israeli Government is trying to delude the world. When Israel ends its occupation of that part of south Lebanon, there will be no resistance and calm will prevail.

[Abu-al-Majd] Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, do you believe the international community must perform some role now against this new Israeli escalation? Has the international community actually performed this role? If it hasn't, why not, in view of this dangerous offensive on south Lebanon?

[Abu-Sharif] One reason for frustration in the Middle East is that the United States, which leads the international community represented by the Security Council and the United Nations, applies a double standard when implementing the resolutions of the Security Council. For over 25 or 26 years, the Security Council resolutions on the Middle East have awaited implementation in the region. Neither the United States nor its allies exert any pressure to see these resolutions implemented.

Undoubtedly, the international community is being asked to act. This is why President Yasir 'Arafat issued

instructions to our delegation at the United Nations to request an emergency Security Council session to discuss the crime being committed on Lebanese territory, a crime Israel is continuing to commit.

[Abu-al-Majd] Abu Sharif, will there be any other PLO action to support Lebanon, especially in view of some statements by PLO officials that the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories will be escalated to counter this fierce Israeli attack on south Lebanon?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt our people and their leadership have always linked events in the Arab world with events in the occupied territories. Escalating the intifadah in the face of the Israeli occupation is part of the Palestinian leadership's plan of work, especially in the face of the Israeli Government's stubbornness in the negotiations and the absence of its desire to start discussing serious issues to get them implemented. This escalation will occur.

President 'Arafat addressed a short message to the U.S. Administration, which was delivered by the head of our negotiating delegation, on the dangerous developments due to the new Israeli aggression.

[Abu-al-Majd] Bassam Abu-Sharif, what can you say about the new and continuous Palestinian losses from the Israeli aggression on south Lebanon?

[Abu-Sharif] Actually, in south Lebanon, the Palestinian and Lebanese citizens are in the same boat. The harm and the losses the Lebanese people are now bearing are huge. There are more than 300,000 Lebanese and Palestinians who have been displaced from their homes and camps northward toward Beirut. This has caused a big crisis in Beirut. And there are more than 350 dead and wounded as a result of these raids, artillery shelling, and the demolition of homes.

[Abu-al-Majd] The emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers will be held today in the Syrian capital, Damascus. What do you expect from this meeting, and what is the agenda before the ministers?

[Abu-Sharif] The emergency situation resulting from the Israeli occupation will be the major point on the agenda. What the Israeli Government is doing not only affects Lebanon, but it affects the whole peace process. How can the Arab negotiating sides believe Israel is serious in discussing implementation of Resolution 242, while it raids and occupies more of their land? This is the major issue on the agenda. I believe the Arab foreign ministers will find a plan of work for large-scale international political action. They will also confront Secretary of State Warren Christopher, when he gets here, with a united Arab stance.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear Arab brothers, at the end of this dialogue, we thank you for tuning in and Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser. Thank you.

[Abu-Sharif] I thank you.

PFLP-GC Receives Cable From Hamas Official

JN0108202893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has had a cable from Mr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the political bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The text follows:

Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC: May you enjoy God's peace and mercy.

Against the backdrop of the brutal Zionist attack on our Lebanese and Palestinian people and our brother mujahidin in the PFLP-GC, and the martyrdom of some mujahidin, on behalf of myself and our brothers in Hamas, I express pride in your steadfastness and struggle, and beseech God the Almighty that the martyrs's souls rest in peace. We also implore God to afford us the honor of martyrdom in his cause.

It is our fate that we should be in the front ranks of our people and their active forces as they defend the homeland, and carry on jihad until victory and liberation. It is our fate to remain dedicated to the pledge we made to our people. May God take care of you and guide your steps and grant you health and happiness. May you enjoy God's peace and mercy.

Algeria

Five Islamists Reportedly Killed in Bou Merdes

LD0108195993 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpt] In Algeria, gendarmes supported by elite units of the Army say they shot dead 5 Islamists today in several attacks, mostly in the coastal town of Bou Merdes, some 40 km from the capital. [passage omitted]

Government To Organize National Meeting on Economy

LD0208093793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The government will hold a national meeting this September to discuss the country's major economic policies. The Prime Minister's Office will, through an organizing committee, invite all those who wish to present their analyses and express their points of view to participate in this meeting. These will include researchers, employers, senior staff in the public and private sectors, and members of associations representing the public who wish to express their views and make a contribution to the debate.

Egypt

Reportage, Commentary on Christopher Visit

Christopher Arrives 2 Aug

NC0208061393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0601 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Cairo this morning accompanied by a delegation on a one-day visit to Egypt at the start of a regional tour that will also take him to Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel.

President Husni Mubarak is due to receive Secretary Christopher later today to discuss ways to further the Middle East peace process.

During the visit, the U.S. secretary of state will also hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the developments in the Middle East and the efforts to stimulate the peace process. The two officials will also discuss the outcome of consultations between Egypt and several of the parties concerned with the peace process as well as the U.S. ideas and proposals in this respect.

Minister Musa welcomed the U.S. secretary of state upon his arrival.

Departs for Alexandria

NC0208095593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0931 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Cairo for Alexandria at noon for a meeting with President Husni Mubarak. The president and the U.S. secretary of state will discuss ways to stimulate the Middle East peace process and overcome the obstacles facing the peace talks.

Accompanying the U.S. secretary are Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Receives Christopher

NC0208111293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the session.

Mission 'Near Impossible'

NC0108072193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM believes that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, due to begin on 3 August with the aim of salvaging the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, will be difficult to the point of being near impossible.

In a comment today, the paper says the difficulty arises from the mission's following Israel's raids against south Lebanon and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir threatening to turn south Lebanon into an uninhabited place if the resistance continues its attacks on Israeli settlements.

The paper warns that peace is more profitable for the Israelis than any security belt or any other measures that Israel believes can give it security.

Tour Helped by Lebanon Cease-Fire

NC0108110193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 1 Aug 93

[News analysis by Ahmad Subhi]

[Text] The purpose of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, due to begin tomorrow, is to discuss ways of giving fresh momentum to the peace process and resuming the Israeli-Arab negotiations, which reached an impasse after last month's 10th round.

Following U.S. special coordinator Dennis Ross' Middle East tour last month, there was fresh hope that Christopher might break the deadlock. But, the Israeli air raids

against Lebanon, the fiercest such attacks since the 1982 invasion, cast a bleak shadow on his forthcoming tour and made it more difficult for Christopher to bring the views of the parties closer over resuming the peace talks soon.

The U.S. State Department's announcement of the postponement of the secretary's tour, which should have begun yesterday, demonstrated the threat posed by the Israeli attacks to Christopher's chances of success. U.S. sources explained that Christopher could not have begun his visit while the situation remained tense.

Perhaps yesterday's agreement to halt the mutual attacks by Israel and the resistance men will give Christopher a bigger chance to focus on his basic mission of promoting the peace operation, on agreement on a date to resume the negotiations, and on emphasizing the U.S. view that dialogue among the regional countries is the basic and most important issue that must not be derailed by any other event.

Musa Comments on Cease-Fire, Arab League Meeting

NC3107155293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Damascus this afternoon after participating in the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting held to discuss the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

Upon his return, Musa said the most important results of the meeting were its expression of support for Lebanon, respect for its sovereignty, denunciation of the aggressive actions against its territory, and allocation of financial aid to Lebanon. He said there was consensus to support the peace process and not to put it at risk. In this respect, the threat represented by the Israeli aggressive actions against Lebanon and those who give Israel the excuse to carry out these aggressive actions share the same onus.

Musa noted that several contacts were made yesterday and today that has led to a cease-fire this afternoon. He added that we hope the peace talks will not be affected by the Israeli aggresive action against Lebanon. However, the climate of violence and the escalating and violent Israeli reaction undoubtedly adversely affect the peace process. We hope we will succeed in protecting the peace process from the shock of the recent negative developments so that talks will resume as soon as possible.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt, Musa said Christopher will arrive in the region Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

Asked if the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting is a beginning to clear the Arab atmosphere, Musa said that the meeting was held for a specific purpose. He expressed the hope that the Arab atmosphere will clear. He said the important thing is that there was an Arab meeting. At this meeting there was a consensus to support Lebanon and stand on its side during this ordeal.

Musa said the emergency meeting authorized Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to make the necessary contacts to implement its resolutions.

Israeli Envoy on Egyptian Role in Peace Process

TA0208085993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Operation Accountability will not have an effect on Egypt's role in the peace process. This assessment was made by David Sultan, Israel's ambassador in Egypt, in anticipation of Secretary of State Christopher's visit to Egypt. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein has returned from Cairo, where he spoke with the Israeli ambassador:

[Begin recording] [Stein] Had Operation Accountability continued a few more days, the Egyptian Government would have had no other option than to intensify its position and remarks against Israel. This apprehension was voiced by Ambassador Sultan in a conversation on the lawn of his residence in Cairo, a few hours prior to the report on the cease-fire. According to Ambassador Sultan two main reasons brought about Egypt's pragmatic and moderate position: One, the strong desire to continue the peace process. Two, the Hizballah organization is not very popular with the Egyptian leadership, to put it mildly.

[Sultan] The Egyptians realize that Hizballah wants to act against the peace process, and that it is sponsored, financed, aided, and encouraged by Iran.

[Stein] According to Ambassador Sultan, following the cease- fire, Operation Accountability will not have an adverse effect on Egypt's functioning in the region.

[Sultan] Egypt is interested in the continuation of the peace process. It does not believe that the operation in Lebanon should interrupt or put an end to the peace process. Egypt believes that it is necessary to carry on. This is the Egyptian position, and I assume that Egypt will continue to do whatever it can to help the sides attain progress.

[Stein] This is what the Israeli ambassador had to say over the weekend. This morning the U.S. secretary of state is arriving in Cairo. [end recording]

Musa Calls Bosnia Partition Plan 'Vague'

NC0105143493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the agreement on the partition of Bosnia is vague in regard to territory, the form of the

state, the guarantees for its existence, and its membership in the United Nations. The agreement is even vague regarding the currency that will be used.

In a statement made today, Musa said: We as a state are interested in this subject. We will only accept an agreement that is legal and that preserves the sovereignty of the state, territory, international personality, and membership in the United Nations. Therefore, we cannot spell out our final position on this subject now.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo; To Meet Mubarak

NC0108212493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo tonight from Yemen on a several-day visit to Egypt. After his arrival, 'Arafat held a session of talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at Cairo Airport's VIP lounge.

After the meeting, the Palestinian president said he will meet President Husni Mubarak to discuss the developments in the region, particularly the brutal Israeli aggression against south Lebanon, which caused much destruction, displaced over 300,000 people, and jeopardized the peace process in the Middle East. He will also discuss the overall situation in the occupied areas and the political developments in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Cairo tomorrow.

'Arafat explained that the talks with President Mubarak will take place while many features of the peace process are being defined.

'Arafat said Jerusalem is considered a redline issue; there is no room for maneuver on it, not only according to the Palestinians, but to Arabs, Muslims, and Christians everywhere.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, attended the talks.

SPLA Commander Garang Reportedly Pays Secret Visit

NC3107184093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Jul 93 p 10

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Informed Egyptian sources have told AL-SAFIR that John Garang, commander of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], is currently paying a secret visit to Egypt at the invitation of the opposition Sudanese Democratic Grouping [SDU] and an authoritative Egyptian body.

The source said Garang is holding lengthy talks with some SDU leaders to reach an agreement to confront the Sudanese Government and to discuss the latest developments in the deadlocked Abuja talks.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that Garang would hold meetings with Egyptian officials in Alexandria to discuss the resumption of Egyptian military aid to the SPLA.

The sources said that Egyptian officials want this aid to remain a secret lest it undermine the upcoming Egyptian-Sudanese ministerial meeting. [passage omitted]

Mubarak To Select Vice President From Military

NC3107132693 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that President Mubarak is studying a list of 10 military figures with a view to choosing a vice president. According to information, these military figures are people Mubarak knows very well and with whom he served during his work in the Armed Forces.

While reports indicate that the selection of a vice president will be finalized after the first three months of Mubarak's third term in office, the same reports did not rule out the possibility of appointing two vice presidents, one civilian and the other from the military. President Mubarak has recently met some of his close aides and raised the issue of choosing a vice president during his third term in office. Mubarak stressed during the meeting that his choice of a vice president will be based on several considerations. The first is whether the vice president will be a civilian or from the military, adding that he prefers his deputy to be a military figure, because military people are disciplined and capable of making decisions at the right time. The second consideration to which Mubarak referred is whether this person is from the officials who are taking part in decisionmaking or former officials, who served the country in the past and were not properly commended for their services.

Libya

Arab Solidarity Urged in Wake of Lebanon Events

LD0108182693 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [Aug] 1, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's editor for Arab affairs asserted that the aggression led by the Zionist enemy for the last seven days against Lebanon requires Arab brothers to look in a comprehensive manner at the issue of national security and the serious measures to be taken for its prompt maintenance.

The editor said that accordingly and out of the unequivocal belief that the national security of the Arab nation is indivisible, the aggression on Lebanon constitutes an aggression on the whole nation. Any action or collective framework bringing Arabs as one rightful party whose land [has been] occupied and victim of aggression and not as parties mediating between the aggressor and the aggressed upon. [sentence as received] This united stance which brings Arabs as one party also should be moved by

a positive and earnest action the least of which is the defence for its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to liberate its occupied land by direct confrontation against the enemy and repulsing its aggression through a collective action in which the immediate application of the Arab Joint Defence Pact will be effected. This is a prerequisite right for requirements of the protection of the Arab nation's destiny and guaranteed by all international conventions regarding self-defence.

The editor pointed out that the concept of coming together as a result of aggression which threatens them makes Arab meetings meaningful and forces the enemy to think twice before daring even to contemplate the idea of aggression against any part of the greater Arab homeland.

The editor added that the Great Jamahiryah called, before the emergency meeting of the Arab League's Ministerial Council, for taking the necessary measures immediately to stop the aggression and maintain the territorial integrity of Arab Lebanon.

Also the Great Jamahiryah called, through the General People's Committee for Unity, upon the Arab nation to take an earnest stance stressing the need to maintain the Arab nation's survival and sovereignty in fulfilment of Arab national security which is the historical responsibility before all Arab masses.

Arab League Envoy on Solving Lockerbie Crisis

NC0108114193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League, has stated that his country's crisis with the West over the Lockerbie plane incident can be solved if the United States and Britain agree to a public trial of the suspects to be conducted before the whole world so that the truth might come out.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, al-Bishari said the attempt to subdue Libya and force it to violate its own laws and waive its sovereign rights by sending the suspects for trial in the United States or Scotland can never succeed.

He said the Arab League's stance on the issue, represented by resolutions backing Libya and the Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's role, helped prevent further sanctions against Libya.

Al-Bishari added that no Arab plan has been proposed to resolve the Lockerbie crisis, but Egypt is making commendable efforts in this connection. He said President Husni Mubarak will personally raise the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he begins his regional tour.

Libya's representative to the Arab League ruled out a meeting soon of the Arab seven-member committee in charge of solving the crisis, saying the committee might meet later during the next Arab foreign ministers meeting.

Al-Bishari voiced astonishment at the UN role in the crisis, saying the issue was originally a legal case in which the UN Security Council was forcibly involved on the grounds that there is a logic of the law of force, not the force of the law.

Al-Bishari denied the Libyan Government is trying to settle the Lockerbie issue out of court by attempting to pay reparation to the victims' families. He said this is untrue and that judicial investigations continue to bring the facts of the case to light. He added that the U.S. Administration did not grant U.S. lawyer Abraham Sofaer the necessary permission to carry out his humanitarian duty of defending Libya, which had hired him for that purpose.

Al-Bishari said increasing sanctions serves no one, but will indeed harm all the parties, including Europe, because the extension of the sanctions to the oil industry would cause problems for the countries importing Libyan oil, which is cheap and near Europe.

He said he does not believe the United States will carry out a military action against Libya, especially as Libya assumes that President Bill Clinton's administration is a good one.

Morocco

Decree Announces House of Representatives Elections

LD3107014193 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The minister of interior and information has the honor to announce to the members of the Chambers of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, and Handicrafts, as well as employee representatives, that decree number 2/93 552, dated 2 Safar 1414 A.H., corresponding to 23 July, has been published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE number 4213 dated 7 Safar 1414 A.H., corresponding to 28 July 1993. In accordance with this decree, the members of the above-mentioned bodies are called upon to elect the members of the House of Representatives who are to be elected by the same bodies on Friday, 17 September 1993.

The electoral bodies invited to take part in this ballot are made up of members of the Chambers of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, and Handicrafts, as well as representatives of employees, who are still carrying out their duties in these various bodies. In accordance with the provisions of the royal edict number 1/77/177 dated 20 Jumada al-Ula 1397, corresponding to 9 May 1977, which stands for the regulatory law on the composition of the House of Representatives and the election of its members, votes in this election will be cast for lists

through a system of proportional representation and on the basis of the rule of the greatest remainder.

The nomination lists will be deposited at the Ministry of Interior, which is the headquarters of the secretariat of the National Committee of Statistics, from Saturday, 4 September 1993, until 12 noon on Thursday, 9 September. Every copy must carry the authenticated signatures of the candidates and must show the following: First, the title of the list; second, the full name of the candidate, their date and place of birth, their profession, and their place of residence; third, the name of the candidate and the authorized signatory of the list; and fourth the statement of the professional chamber or class of employees' representatives to which the candidate is affiliated.

The election campaign will begin on the first hour of Friday, 10 September 1993 and will end at 2400 on Thursday, 16 September.

Finally, the minister of interior and information points out that the voting will start at 1400 and will end as soon as all the electors registered at the polling station have voted, at the latest at 1800 on the same day, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 31 of the royal edict that stands for the regulatory law referred to above regarding the composition of the House of Representatives and the election of its members.

Defectors Say Polisario Headed for Collapse

LD3107132493 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, July 31 (MAP)—More Moroccan Sahrawi citizens fled the Lahmada sequestration camps and joined their motherland, Morocco.

In statements to the Moroccan TV, the defectors said the "Polisario" [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] is heading towards total collapse due to the continuous defection of Sahrawis and internal tribal problems tearing the separatist group.

The situation in Lahmada camps is extremely dismal, they said adding that the international organizations stopped their assistance to the "Polisario" due to their misuse of the assistance.

The Moroccan citizens still sequestered in the camps are now aware of the bad intentions of the separatist band who embezzle the humanitarian assistance for their personal interests, the rallied added.

Now that the lies and propaganda of the "Polisario" are unveiled to the international community, the military supplies dwindled and paralyzed the group's military structure reduced to a mere police gagging the will of the sequestered population, they said.

The new defectors are Ahmed Mohamed Mami, Ali Mohamed Salem, Yahya Abdellah Bouamatou and Hafid Manah [names as received].

Sudan

Iraqi Technical Office Opens in Khartoum

JN3007161293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] In Khartoum today, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, minister of irrigation and acting minister of agriculture, inaugurated the Iraqi Technical Coordination Office in Sudan. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Industry and Commerce Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, Agriculture and Natural Resources Minister Professor Ahmad 'Ali Qunayf, several Sudanese officials, Arab ambassadors in Khartoum, the Iraqi ambassador in Sudan, and members of the Iraqi community in Sudan.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, cited by an INA correspondent, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa paid tribute to the enhanced fraternal bilateral cooperation in various spheres. He indicated that the inauguration of this office is a good result of this cooperation. He expressed the Sudanese people's pride in the heroic stand of Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn who confront the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

An agreement to launch this office was reached during meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Sudanese Committee in Baghdad in December 1992.

Rebels Continue Attacks on UN Personnel

EA0108172693 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Awad Khalifah, commissioner general for relief and rehabilitation, has announced that the commission had requested the United Nations to take harsher steps against the rebel movement in response to the latter's obstruction of the relief operation, its promotion of terror and uncertainty, and its repeated attacks on UN personnel. His excellency went on to say that the rebel movement had reneged on all the commitments it had pledged to uphold under the Nairobi agreement of last December. It had accordingly continued to obstruct the transport of relief materials being dispatched overland between Kenya and Western Equatoria State. Mr. Awad Khalifah said steamers had been repeatedly looted, the worst incident of its kind occurring in the area of Lake [passage indistinct]. The rebel movement had also [words inidstinct] government administrative convoys in spite of the cease-fire with various of its factions engaging in in-fighting, drawing attention to their repeated acts of aggression directed against UN personnel and other relief workers.

The commissioner general for relief stressed that the government had fulfilled all its undertaking under this [Nairobi] agreement in permitting land, air and river consignments of aid and providing security for them. It had also permitted the implementation of all surveys applied for, as well as facilitating the distribution of food

from inside the country. Mr. Awad Khalifah said that the agreement concluded between the commission and the operation lifeline coordination office in Nairobi provided for securing the transport of relief supplies by land from Kenya to Western Equatoria, from Lokichoggio in Kenya to [word indistinct] and Kapoeta as far as Torit, by rail from Babanusah as far as Wau, by river from Kosti to Malakal as far as Juba, and also from Malakal as far as Nasir. He said the transport of consignments by air would continue.

Turning his attention to quantities transported from January to July, the commissioner general for relief announced that about 29,000 tonnes of food had been transported to the areas held by the government and to those in which there was a rebel presence.

Tunisia

RCD Perseverance Congress Proceedings Resume

Policy Draft Resolutions Approved

LD3007153093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] Perseverance Congress this morning resumed proceedings at the Palais des Congress in the capital, under the chairmanship of its First Deputy Chairman Hamed Karoui. More details on the activities of the second day of the congress in this report from the radio crew at the scene:

[Unidentified correspondent] On the second day of the Perseverance Congress, the conferees were presented with draft resolutions, of which some were approved, on the understanding that the congress would resume proceedings at 1630 to continue examining the remaining ones.

Political, economic, and foreign policy resolutions were approved this morning. [passage omitted]

The political resolution was 15 pages long and dealt with several points, the most important of which are constitutional institutions, administration and administrative reform, democracy, pluralism and human rights, the RCD's relations with national organizations and finally associations. [passage omitted]

With regard to democracy, pluralism, and human rights, the resolution reiterated that these three aspects were inter-related on the grounds that they complimented the national project, which required them. In this respect, the congress reiterated the Rally's commitment to all the constants and values upon which the national project for change had been based. Those constants and values are not subject to political bargaining, as they represent the foundation of democratic concord and the common denominators chosen by the forces of civil society which made a commitment to them through the national project.

The congress reiterated the Rally's determination to confront anything likely to take our society backwards, to block democratic change, or to violate human rights through crime and terrorism, through calling for extremism and mutual hatred or through setting back the achievements of Tunisians, particularly women. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Closing Session

LD0108143793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug

[Excerpts] The major event today in Tunisia is the conclusion of the work of the Perseverance Congress. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired the final session. Ben Ali delivered the keynote speech in which he particularly stressed that the proceedings of the congress met expectations, and that what the congress had passed indicates the soundness of the orientations and choices in the new reign. Here is a complete recording of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali:

[Begin Ben Ali recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

The proceedings of this congress have met our expectations. We anticipated the further consecration of democracy in party work and continued determination to persevere in the area of development and in consolidating and developing the gains made. [passage omitted]

Important political events are coming up soon. We have chosen freely to consecrate in them pluralism in the Chamber of Deputies, to complete the democratic process in the country which we began since we announced in the 7 November [1987] declaration our people merited an advanced and organized political life based on the multiplicity of political parties. [passage omitted]

We seek through this choice to achieve the basis for harmony and the use of all national capabilities and energies on the basis of the sovereignty of the people, equal opportunity for all and the seeking arbitration in the legitimacy of the Constitution and law, in order to be able to persevere in developing the country and guaranteeing its invincibility. In the past I indicated to the link between political action and development. I also noted that political reforms, although required in themselves, are necessary for the success of economic and social reforms. [passage omitted]

Economic liberalization is a lasting option which we chose freely to realize the national interest, without any pressure or recommendations from any quarter. Rather, we have been ahead of many similar states and peoples, exactly as we have been ahead in the field of political liberalization. As we worked in politics for eschewing monopoly and exclusion, we worked in the economic and social field for the cultivation of solidarity and social justice. [passage omitted]

In order to guarantee the continued success of economic liberalization and expansion of social justice we must

first rely on ourselves. It is also incumbent on us to develop the national asset, which is work. [passage omitted]

Work and God will surely see your work, and his messenger, and the believers. Verily God has spoken the turth. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

General Resolution Adopted

LD0108170193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [Studio announcer] Following President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's speech at the closing session of the Perseverance Congress of the Constitutional Democratic Rally, the Congress heard Mr. Abdallah Kallel, the general registrar of the Congress, read out the earlier unanimously endorsed general resolution.

Here is Abdallah Kallel:

[Begin recording] While the conferees appreciate the special circumstance in which their congress is being held, where the citizens are enjoying the fruits of accomplished reforms, the noticeable breakthroughs in development, the prevailing security and stability in the country, and the consequent gains Tunisia has received in terms of respect from friends and brothers and the influx of foreign investors and tourists, they affirm that the credit for all of that and all credit goes to the maker of the change, the savior of the country [President Ben Ali] [applause and cheers] and to the Rally and to his sensible policy and sound choices and to special features of his reform program in terms of deep patriotism and firm principles in addition to the flexibility in dealing with the inherited reality and gradual achievement. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] The general resolution dealt with a number of political, economic, social, educational, cultural, and informational points. The Rally affirmed the commitment of party members to the modernization project of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, which is based on a comprehensive realization of the concepts of democracy and human rights where development becomes a collateral condition to democracy to free man from all restrictions. [passage omitted]

The congress stressed the nature of the Tunisian view of human rights in its broader meaning and its universal dimensions according to human values and standards. The congress underlined the party members' determination to confront the enemies of freedom and human rights and all those who harbor evil for the homeland and work at hindering its march and closing the door on the democratic buildup and violating human rights with violence and terrorism and the call for hatred. [passage omitted]

Concerning economics, the congress stressed the need for continuing the improvement of the conditions for investment, to continuing on the path of structural reform, and for redistributing roles between the public and private sectors. The congress recommended work on reforming the banking system and to bringing more incentives for young researchers and farmers.

The congress also stressed the importance of the agriculture and marine fishing sector and recommended further reforms in the agricultural sector.

The Congress recommended the strengthening of regional cooperation at the Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, African, and European levels. It also called for activating the trade cycle with the outside world. [passage omitted]

At the level of Tunisia's foreign policy, the congress stressed Tunisia's commitment to the fundamental constants in consolidating her relations with her regional and international environ.

At the level of Maghreb cooperation, the congress stressed the need for the implementation by Maghreb countries of all the decisions and agreements approved by the Maghreb leaders.

The congress stressed Tunisia's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. It also called for the reinforcement of cooperation and coordination between the countries. It called for a halt to the bestial practices committed against the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The congress called for a continued effort toward a Mediterranean mentality based on solidarity, partnership, and mutual development.

Following the endorsement of the general resolution, the new composition of the Rally's Central Committee was announced. It was announced by Hamed Karoui, the first deputy of the congress' president.

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Records Gulf War Anniversary

LD0108171193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1324 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 1 Aug (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait today reaffirmed its appreciation for the brave positions of all the fraternal and friendly states who supported the rights of Kuwait during the ordeal of the Iraqi occupation. At the same time, it stressed that it will not forget the positions of the states that supported the Iraqi regime and who continue their backing of it.

This came in a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers on the anniversary of the crime of the sinful Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In its statement the council recalled the heroic role and the brave sacrifices of the Kuwati martyrs and the Kuwaitis who stayed behind. The council registered its appreciation of all the loyal people of the homeland who contributed toward the return of normal life after the hateful aggressor had created havoc.

At this anniversary the council stressed the importance of learning from the examples and lessons, of working toward the embodiment of national unity, and of closing the ranks to confront all challenges and dangers which threaten the security and stability of the homeland.

In conclusion, the council implored God to help release the Kuwaiti POWs from Iraqi prisons, stressing the priority of this first national issue and the continuing efforts at all levels to reach a resolution of this humanitarian tragedy. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Damascus Declaration Issues

LD3107102093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait City, 31 Jul 1993, KUNA—Shaykh Sabah al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said in an interview to "AL-WATAN," published here today, that "Kuwait will not bear the consequences for errors made by countries of the Damascus Declaration." He called for prompt implementation of the Declaration clauses. He went on to say "Kuwait has not given up hope in Morocco's mediation on the issue of prisoners," and pointed out that "King Hassan of Morocco is making intensive efforts to find a way out for Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in the jails of the Iraqi tyrant."

The first deputy prime minister addressed the issue of people of unidentified nationality who reside in Kuwait, and said that the view on them had not changed. He said that, although many like them were meeting with opposition in other countries, Kuwait would not oppose their presence. He said that all the Kuwaiti Government asked of them was that they show their original passports and reveal their original nationalities; they would be shown every respect and appreciation and be allowed to stay.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD0108174493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 1 Aug (KUNA)—The envoy of his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and the adviser at the amir's office, 'Abd-al-Rahman Salim al-Atiqi, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, al-Atiqi will convey a message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz. [passage omitted]

King Sends 10 Planeloads of Relief Goods to Lebanon

LD3107221793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 31 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source has made a statement to SPA in which he said:

Out of the desire of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, to contribute toward easing the suffering of the sons of the Lebanese people who fled south Lebanon as a result of the Israeli attacks on the towns and villages of South Lebanon, the exalted king gave directives to the ministers concerned to quickly prepare quantities of food supplies, medicines, blankets, tents, and rugs and send them immediately to the Lebanese Government to help the evacuees from south Lebanon.

The responsible source said: In implementation of the noble order, the aforementioned supplies will be sent by 10 airplane loads beginning tomorrow Sunday 13 Safar 1414, corresponding to 1 August 1993.

The source concluded the statement by praying to almighty God to lift the suffering from the fraternal Lebanese people and to spare Lebanon and its people any ill.

Saddam's Political Article on Revolution Anniversary

JN3107154593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that the 30 July 1968 uprising was the essence of the 17 July revolution and the beginning of its genuine and legitimate march and that without this revolution, the 17 July revolution would not have been called a revolution.

In a political article titled "The Message and the Government," published in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH on the 25th anniversary of the 30 July revolution, the president said that the majority of the people, with their sense of nationalism, were sympathetic toward the 30 July revolution.

His excellency noted that the genuine Ba'thist strugglers viewed the 30 July event within the framework of its historical significance which transcends the defense of the revolution to the determination to carry out the mission and preserve the substance of the revolution.

The president said that the will of the Ba'thists triumphed on this day, expressing people's conscience as it has always been at all the difficult turning points and in its great march toward the mission and the substance of the revolution. The aim was not the assumption of power to impose control and realize gains for the rulers. Thus the mission and the revolution survived.

The following is the text of the article:

For a quarter of a century, we have been celebrating the 30 July revolution anniversary, remembering the revolution's events, which were recorded with conviction from the first year by those who led the events of this day, drew up its plans, and implemented what they believed to have been the imperative beginning of the line and the subsequent al-Ba'th revolution in accordance with the Ba'thist principles. They implemented the necessary policies in order to maintain the revolution's living connection with its great principles and its aims of bringing prosperity to the people in a new way and to throw the door of opportunity wide open so that Iraq could reach out for its pan-Arab roots and for our nation's important heritage.

Has the 30 July concept been a defensive means against the upstarts who were bent on deviating it from the line which the strugglers wanted and rushed toward with resolve while leading their proud people to generous sacrifices, or was it another matter altogether by which the concept of defensiveness formed only a page and a militant duty?

For too long, there has been a kind of interaction between the message and its revolution—in order to achieve known objectives and principles—and between the government as a formula and a necessary framework of the organized work of the man in power and his legal and constitutional responsibility toward the people and the nation. Amid their government preoccupations, temptations, and means, rulers often choose the easiest, less creative, and safest paths, which divert them from a course entrusted with fulfilling a mission through revolution and government onto a course that only seeks to enjoy power. Rulers will then be preoccupied with the traditional matters which have been influenced by their predecessors. Even if they make some progress, however, this will not introduce a comprehensive qualitative alteration of the people's life in all fields. This is the beginning of the estrangement between the starting line and declared principles, message and principles and the meaning of revolution, and the situation that revolution has reached, namely, merely a new form of government that, in the best of conditions, will achieve little improvement in its outlook and conduct.

This happened to the Muslim revolution after the rule of the orthodox caliphs and their good successors, who were inspired by the principles of the message. At that point, there was a gradual separation from the essence of the starting point.

At that point, the revolution abates, and turns from a message that needs to be fulfilled, with objectives to be attained, into a question only of rule and control. On this basis, it is often said that a given event is only a matter of toppling a government, while another event is a course of principles and a message. This was the genuine course of the revolution, through which such principles were sought to be achieved.

Therefore, we find that enlightened people welcome qualitative intellectual rejuvenation and development the expressed through a revolution and a message. They call such a state a constantly renewable state unhindered by dilemmas or obstacles, while they consider any contrary state a cessation of the message and its revolution, a departure from it, or a paralysis which will lead to its deviation and subsequent demise.

When choosing between the two ways—just ruling and making some relatively minor changes or adhering, ethically, principally, and practically, to the meaning of the message—one faces a major problem. Many people who are not rulers prefer the easier choice under certain circumstances, particularly when the choice entails some kind, or a margin, of necessary risk. Despite the fact that the intelligent mind and good wisdom suggest enough reasons and justifications to choose that path, and despite the fact that it appears to be more difficult with an unescapable margin of risk, what always encourages one to choose what is genuine and representative of the mujahidin's ethical commitment to their message is that the majority of people, deep in their mind, adopt such a path. The majority of people declare their support for this path and strongly adhere to it when it starts to show success, no matter how small the number of people who adopted it at the beginning, before it started to show any

signs of success. This alone represents major and distinguished turning points in the history of nations and peoples.

This was the condition of the people before and after 30 July 1968. Because of objective reasons, the majority of people were somewhat neutral toward the 17 July event. The most important thing brought about by that condition was the intervention of the upstarts and suspect parts involved in that condition. The majority of people wanted to see a change. The great majority of people wished to see a genuine, comprehensive, and deep revolution change things. But, were the majority of people prepared for the margin of risk involved in the 30 July event? Were they prepared to put up with the sacrifices associated with such a margin in the first place?

The answer is no. However, the majority of the people, with their sense of nationalism and with their living conscience, were sympathetic with the 30 July event. Despite the fact that some rulers, or even some leading personalities, at that time and before 30 July would live with the mere track reached by the 17 July revolution if the assumption of power would be guaranteed—and also despite the fact that some of these people were viewing the 30 July event before it actually took place as a mere defense against competitors for power who might then develop their capabilities so they would completely replace others—the genuine Ba'thist strugglers were viewing the 30 July event within the framework of its historic significance, which moved from the mere defense of the revolution to the determination to carry out the message and preserve the substance of the revolution. This fact was confirmed by the living conditions of the Ba'thist strugglers before 30 July, as well as by their implicit pains and concerns for the revolution.

With these implications in mind, 30 July was the essence of the 17 July revolution. It was the beginning of the genuine and legitimate march of this revolution, without which we could have not been able to call the 17 July revolution a revolution. On this basis, some comrades, including late Abu-Haytham [former Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr] suggested that the revolution be called the 30 July day. But, for many reasons, we insisted that the beginning should be 17 July, as previously announced. However, and in order to make a historic, genuine, and legitimate description of the revolution as it really is, we must call it the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

The will of the Ba'thist strugglers triumphed on that day, expressing the people's conscience, as it has always been in all the difficult turning points and in its great march toward the message and the revolution's essence. The aim was not the assumption of power to impose control and realize gains for the rulers, so both the message and the revolution survived. Long live the message and its genuine revolution. God is great.

Saddam Says Israeli Raid 'Barbaric, Blind' Aggression

JN3107174493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1703 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has described what is going on in Lebanon as a barbaric, blind aggression that indiscriminately destroys land and life.

His excellency stressed that "Israel" would not have been able to attack Lebanon if Iraq had not been engaged.

Addressing Babil Governorate officials when his excellency received them today, and through the sons of great Iraq, the glorious Arab nation, and the honorable ones in the world, President Saddam Husayn asked: Have you not noticed how small "Israel" became during the 30-state aggression against Iraq?

President Saddam Husayn said: Why is "Israel" attacking Lebanon now? Why is it treating the Arabs with contempt, even though some official Arab representatives offered Israel concessions that it never it dreamed of before, and then accepted insults? Why is all this taking place?

His excellency answered: This is because the Arab elements of strength have been weakened or engaged. If Iraq had not been engaged, would "Israel" have been able to attack Lebanon? The answer is: No.

President Saddam Husayn said the Zionist aggression against Lebanon in 1982 took place at a time when Iran was threatening to occupy al-Basrah and all of Iraq. He said the latest aggression against Lebanon comes at a time when Iraq is under siege, along with all the other measures.

President Saddam Husayn said the image of the plot of targeting Iraq has now become evident, not just to all Iraqis and Arabs, but to all the world.

He added that the enemies targeted Iraq because it is flying the banner of right and defying injustice and tyranny.

President Saddam Husayn said in his statements to the Babil Governorate dignitaries: Men are like the wheat and barley harvest when in season—the harvest is as big as the area one sows. Success comes from God. We thank God that the harvest is big and high, God willing, because the area of your crop is not limited to just Iraq, but extends to every place in the world where there are virtuous people, where we were preceded by people who spread the message of Islam to the furthest point on earth. Your harvest was planted in the mind and heart of every virtuous Arab, wherever he may be.

His excellency added: He whose area of crop is that large will certainly have a high harvest, and even a harvest higher than all other harvests, God willing. Today, when you take the oath of allegiance to yourself and your

leadership, you are deriving this position from your great, deep-rooted history. Oath-taking is a longstanding practice among the Arabs. It means a pledge and a commitment to what one says. The oath of the Babylonians is seen on the stone on which the first just law in the history of mankind was inscribed. You know that the first law to specify rights and obligations and strike a balance between rights and obligations was written at the time of the Babylonians. All the world's laws, which they brag about, and which are only hundreds of years old, came thousands of years after that law. An active interaction with the great values, passed from one generation to the next, is always a source of joy.

President Saddam Husayn went on to say: After a long life of pride and health, God willing, every man will proceed to his destiny in accordance with God's law based on birth and death. Those who are still young and whom God will favor with a long life will see how the next Iraqi generation will judge you. They will hear what they will say about you. They will hear them say that once upon a time when the homeland was threatened and when the Iraqis had been under siege for three years these men came in the third year to renew the pledge and to tell their leadership that they still abide by their pledge in spite of all that had taken place.

His excellency said: These are the great meanings I attach to this great pledge. God Almighty grants us success.

His excellency said: If the conspiracy and its causes was not conspicuous at one of the stages, they are known now, not only to the Iraqis and the Arabs but also in the world. The reply to the question that asks why Iraq has been targetted has now become clear and comprehensive.

He added: In 1982, and while Iran was issuing reprehensible calls to occupy al-Basrah and all of Iraq, Israel attacked Lebanon and Beirut was besieged. In July 1993, Israel again attacked Lebanon.

The president explained: While Iran was threatening and engaging Iraq, Israel attacked Lebanon in 1982. While Iraq is being besieged, apart from all the other measures, Israel attacked Lebanon. But Israel did not attack anyone from August 1988 to January 1991.

President Saddam Husayn said: Why does Israel attack Lebanon now? Why does it adopt a contemptuous attitude toward the Arabs, in spite of the fact that some official Arab representatives have offered Israel concessions it had never dreamed of before, and then accepted insults? Why is all this taking place?

The answer is because the elements of strength the Arabs possess have been weakened, or are being engaged. If Iraq had not been engaged, would Israel have been able to attacke Lebanon? The answer is: No.

His excellency added: Hence, this is the reason for the aggression on Iraq in 1991. This aggression, along with the embargo, are still continuing in order to keep the Arabs an arena for Israel. This is one of the reasons.

Addressing the Iraqi people, the president said: If anyone of you looks around, he will see who is working for himself and making his own decisions, and who resembles a protege who is protected by a big man while acting as his henchman. Look around and ask yourselves: How many Arabs and Muslims are now placing themselves at the disposal of a big one, and paying him in return for his protection and patronage. How many such Arabs and Muslims are now present? Can you not count them?

He added that the big ones seek such people. But anyone who is at the disposal of another person should pay a price. The price will actually be the people, and not the person in question or his throne. Anyone who is at the disposal of another person to protect his own throne will pay the price of the people and their dignity, future, present, and wealth. This is the reason, because we have never been at the disposal of anyone, and we will never be so.

A rural saying goes: Both the guest and the refugee are a plight. Is this not so? Why is it a plight? The answer is that you cannot hand over someone who seeks refuge in your home, even if you are obliged to kill all your family. As this man has sought refuge with you, he has become part of the family's honor. In other words, when such a man willingly comes to your house and seeks asylum with you, he has agreed to be part of your family under critical circumstances. Thus, anyone who asks that this man be surrendered resembles one who comes to desecrate your house, God forbid, should he attack this man. Numerous men were killed while defending people who sought refuge with them.

[Text] His excellency continued: Others, whom you know, do not have such considerations for the guest. They do not consider the guest a "plight" in the sense that we understand. You must be hospitable to the guest, whether you are a have or a have-not. Even if you have to cut flesh out of your own arm when you have a guest, you, as a host, must fulfill your duties fully.

Honor exists in man's mind, conscience, and heart. It is inherited from the forefathers and the kinfolk, and is supported by principles. Honor can be a "plight." If we did not have honor, we might have chosen to come under someone's thumb. However, we are not like that. Even if the ones with honor were in our shoes, they might accept that, even if the Iraqis do not accept it. I am saying this because some in known Arab countries have come under someone's thumb, although their peoples do not accept that. However, the rulers have accepted that. But, tell me, how can we come under someone's thumb? What makes us do that?

We cannot come under anyone's thumb. Anyone who comes under somebody's thumb must be small, in that sense. But what can we tell great Iraq, which has a large history, which we know, read, and understand? What will we tell the principles of Islam, which we know and

understand, not coldly, but with an emotional and mental interaction with our lively history? What will we tell our forefathers, although they are dead? What will we tell the civilization of Babylon? What will we tell the civilization of Assyria? What will we tell Baghdad, which was the highest spear, the highest banner, the highest book, the highest in faith, and the seat of the caliphates?

This is not possible.

Therefore, we tell whoever tells us to come under his thumb that we hate to come under anybody's thumb, because we do not come under anybody's thumb.

President Saddam Husayn said: Consider what is going on in Lebanon now. It is a blind barbaric aggression that indiscriminately destroys the land and life. It is an unrestrained aggression because Lebanon does not have the weapons to resist Israeli warplanes. But have you not noticed how small Israel became during the 30-state aggression? Did not it become small?

When the name Israel was mentioned then, they used to lament it. It was as if someone's daughter was beaten by her husband, so they came to console her father.

His excellency added: Each one of them used to go to Israel every day, carrying his luggage. Then, he would call on the Israeli leaders to be patient and not to rush things. This is because its efforts in comparison to the 30 states and God's will is dwarfed. It is God who wanted to give success to his slaves to his devoted faithful. And since no one tells it not to aggress on Arabs, Israel is bullying Lebanon. This should not be allowed to happen. Israel is killing children, women, and the elderly, and burning crops and destroying livestock, as the world looks on, and international organizations do nothing. However, if it is anything to do with Iraq, these organizations get together and decide against it within hours of the news being broadcast. Isn't that so?

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn went on to say: If it is anything to do with Arabs or Muslims, it will be an interval of months between the announcement of the news and a meeting of the UN Security Council, which will come up with the same reaction that we see regarding the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

Why is it that they have targeted you and are still targeting you?

The answer is because you have raised the banner of justice and said no to the tyrant of injustice.

Addressing himself to Arabs at large, His Excellency the president said: Discuss with your brothers and children the values of commitment and keeping the promise and the word. This is because in the past we needed the word. We need it now. We will continue to need it in future and for many generations to come. Let no one say that modern civilization is devoid of the word, because a people that has no word will lose its way and die. A people without men of their word will lose its way. You have seen how great nations collapsed and disappeared, because they lost their word. For instance, take the Soviet Union, which, as you see, is being trampled upon and humiliated, without being fought or placed under siege. The Soviet Union went down when it became God's will that it did. It will not regain its consciousness or its will until it has regained its word and relies on God.

Look what has happened to Yugoslavia after having lost the word. And Somalia. Foreign armies went into Somalia under an operation they dubbed Operation Restore Hope. Some hope! The presumed hope has transformed into military attacks and military statements detailing military operations, with aircraft hitting such-and-such places, and killing women and children and the men who went there to provide food, as they claim, in order to show the world that they went there prompted by humanitarian considerations. They went to Somalia to restore hope, carrying bread from their countries to distribute it among Somalis, supposedly driven by humanitarian considerations. But look what happened after a while. What happened was that they started killing and slaughtering the Somalis.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn emphasized that the old world order is crumbling progressively, and that when the word is lost in a faraway place, it will come here, God willing. It disappears from one place to appear in another. Such is the history of humanity. It has never happened in the history that the word has been lost throughout the world. Instead, we find that whenever the word grew weaker somewhere on earth it grew stronger elsewhere so that life may continue and the law of humanity survive with the word and the stand.

Concluding his speech, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn saluted the people of the word and the stand, Iraq, and the Arab nation that has been known to keep its word.

The Babil Governorate's delegation chanted the oath of the tribes, and notables of the governorate renewed the pledge to his excellency that they shall remain the first to heed the call to help the distressed and the first to heed the call to rush to party headquarters to defend the homeland and leader.

Saddam Receives Dignitaries From Wasit Governorate

JN0108165593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA) President Saddam Husayn has asserted that the fate of Iraq rests safely with its people and that the time, when Baghdad was controlled by London, Paris, or Washington, has past.

During his reception today of 354 virtuous religious scholars, tribal leaders, dignitaries, and writers from the Wasit Governorate, his excellency said that the key to Baghdad is held by its people, that the key of every nation will, God willing, be held by its people, and that

humanity will live in peace, security, and stability without any one trying to infringe on other people's rights.

Addressing representatives of the sons of the Wasit Governorate, President Saddam Husayn said: What happened three years ago, has become a memory, which is a good memory for good people. He also beseeched Almighty God to help even those who took bad positions to repair these positions.

His excellency pointed out that the battles are still going on, that the blockade still exists, that men do what they can, and that those who have not been able to catch up with the convoy should keep trying, striving to increase their speed.

President Saddam Husayn added: The most important thing is that your country has remained safe. Everyone of you has an opportunity to express his belief the way he likes and at the appropriate time in order to serve his country, nation, and people.

His excellency said: As long as the homeland is safe and its men still enjoy their morale and faith, then nothing cannot be repaired. As for other things, even the most difficult things will only remain for a limited time. No matter how long time is, it will be short compared with the homeland's age, and time needed for the Iraqis to enjoy the best conditions, and to be under the best circumstances in order to faithfully perform their duties as they should.

His excellency said: Clothes ["al-thawb"] were hard for the Iraqis to find when men shirked their responsibilities due to Iraq's circumstances. However, when everyone assumed his responsibility, things became abundant.

President Saddam Husayn added: Although the blockade is still there, and things are still painful to our people, which you know, our people, God be praised, have the potential to deal with life. When your state sees that the employee's salary is no longer sufficient for him, it increases his salary. When it sees that the soldier's salary is small and no longer sufficient under our economic circumstances, it increases his salary. At the same time, a ration card has become a right for every Iraqi family, with which it receives foodstuffs at the beginning of every month.

The reception was interspersed with songs, poetry, and speeches praising Iraq's jihad, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, against the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the reception.

Radio Marks Third Anniversary of Gulf War

JN0208082293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Today is the third anniversary of the great Day of the Call, which was an abortive reply to an evil plot against Iraq and the Arab nation, executed by the servile rulers imposed on Kuwait, to destroy Iraq's economy and prejudice its security and sovereignty.

Emerging victorious from its eight-year fierce war with Iran, Iraq was faced with a situation departing from the pan-Arab context, contradicting the simplest relations between Arab states, and threatening its very existence, when the servile rulers imposed on Kuwait followed a preplanned scheme to harm and weaken Iraq at a time when Iraq sought to rebuild its economy and compensate its people for what they had missed during the fierce war with Iran. In this war, Iraq offered rivers of blood from its bright youth to defend the nation, its dignity, honor, and wealth.

Leader President Saddam Husayn had warned of the grave positions adopted by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates by flooding the oil market and attempting to reduce oil prices, resulting in $1 billion annual loss for Iraq per dollar in reduced prices. This behavior harmed Iraq and wasted the resources of the Arab nation, affecting not only oil-exporting countries but also other Arab states because this affected the support they received.

Later events and the 30-state military aggression proved the soundness of Iraq's principled position and its conclusions, as well as the enormity of the grudge held by the enemies against Iraq. The chapters of plotting were also clear in the successive chapters of aggression and the ensuing suspect schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Despite the ferocity of the aggression in all its chapters, the Iraqis have proven their strong willpower by standing up for their principles. Now they are acquiring a higher stature and more loftiness and pride, with their leader and their rallying around the banner of God is Great raised by the right hand of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him.

The second of August will remain a glowing flame in the hearts of all good people from the sons of the Arab nation, primarily the sons of the Kuwait region. Also, the meanings underscored by the great showdown of the Mother of Battles shall be eternalized to illuminate for Arab generations the path for a decent, free life.

Foreign Ministry Denies Violating Iranian Airspace

JN0108185493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1733 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Iraq has denied that its aircraft violated Iranian airspace last month.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq complies with the cease-fire agreement in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598, and described a Tehran radio report the day before yesterday that Iraqi aircraft violated Iranian airspace two times in July as allegations.

The spokesman recalled the repeated Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement between the two countries. In a statement to INA, he said that Iranian aircraft have violated Iraqi airspace several times, pointing out that the most serious of these violations was the one carried out by eight aircraft over al-Khalis, 60 km north of Baghdad, on 5 April. It is known that Iraqi defenses shot down one aircraft and that correspondents saw the wreckage and reported the aggression against Iraq to the world.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to the air aggression carried out by six Iranian aircraft against a civilian hospital in the Ranyah area in northern Iraq on 13 July, and to the aggression carried out by six other Iranian aircraft on the al-Khalis and Jalula' areas on 25 May this year.

The spokesman also said that the UN secretary general was informed of the Iranian violations of Iraqi airspace in official memorandums.

The spokesman added that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry submitted memorandums of protest over the Iranian aircraft's violations of Iraqi airspace to the Iranian side at that time.

Kurdish Radio Reports Iranian Shelling, Casualties

JN0108195393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1640 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Not satisfied with their attacks a few days ago, the forces of the Iranian regime have again shelled a number of areas in the Kurdistan region. Since the night of 31 July-1 Aug, these forces have been shelling the village of Qalat Sida in the Wadi Shawr. Today, these forces used heavy artillery and launchers to shell the villages of Obwayja, Kani Bnaw, Suraban, Qalat Sida, Karak, Daraban, Jatsalan, Dirah, and Shamamiq. The shelling forced the inhabitants of these villages to abandon their homes.

Two women, Layla Mustafa ansd 'Ayishah Mala were injured.

Memo to UN Security Council Protests Iranian Attacks

JN0108102793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 1 Aug (INA)—Iraq has again lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council over the Iranian regime's attacks on border areas in northern Iraq, something which constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and blatant interference in its domestic affairs.

In a memorandum of protest addressed to the UN Security Council yesterday, Iraq affirmed that a force affiliated with the regime's guards entered the sector of Choarta in northern Iraq and blew up a school building there on 20 July. A fight ensued between the attackers and the residents of the area. As a result, an Iranian guard was killed in the fighting, while four others were taken prisoner. The four prisoners were evacuated to al-Sulaymaniyah, where they were handed over to UN representatives.

The memorandum noted that on 23 July, Iranian troops shelled the al-Sulaymaniyah area with Katyusha rockets. The shelling lasted three hours.

Iraq asked the UN Security Council to intervene to prevent the Iranian regime from repeating such hostile actions, which contravene the rules of international law as well as the UN Charter.

Arab League Informed of Allied Air Incursions

JN0108101993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the General Secretariat of the Arab League that Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft in the course of their continuous violations of Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airpsace during period 26-29 July. They carried out 308 hostile air sorties during that period, using Saudi and Kuwaiti bases.

The Iraqi delegate enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among Arab League members so that they may be aware of these regrettable incidents.

Christopher To Serve as Intermediary With Syria

TA0108185793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpts] This morning, the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the cease-fire arrangement in the north, but it expects a continuation of the war in the security zone in south Lebanon. The arrangement with Syria, achieved through American mediation, aroused in the cabinet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] hopes about the continuation of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

With an achievement that cannot be dismissed in his pocket, the U.S. secretary of state—the intermediary—arrives tomorrow in Cairo. From Egypt, Warren Christopher and his team will shuttle between Israel, Syria, and Jordan. The Americans will try to spend most of their time in an attempt to advance the peace process and will try not to spend time on the conflict in Lebanon. From reports reaching the prime minister and the foreign minister, it appears that Secretary Christopher is now prepared to serve personally as a bridge between Rabin and al-Asad. The Americans believe that al-Asad is now ready to talk with Israel via Secretary Christopher. He will try to convince al-Asad and Rabin to instruct their representatives to the Washington talks to discuss business. That way, the direct talks can continue to serve as the main channel for a dialogue, as long as the leaders provide their chief negotiators something to talk about.

The Americans are not bringing a new compromise proposal to the Palestinians. They will suggest to Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues to immediately take over most of the powers of the Civil Administration in the territories, as well as getting generous financial aid. It therefore seems that the Americans are preparing the background for extricating the peace talks from the current deadlock, and paradoxically, they are trying to use Operation Accountability as the springboard.

Visit To Focus on Syrian Track

TA0208101393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to focus on the promotion of the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria. To this end, he intends to employ a shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus during his current visit, which starts today, and in the coming months. A senior political source said last night that Christopher's decision to once more come to the region and hold negotiations by shuttling between the countries means, in practice, that "this is the end of the Washington talks." [passage omitted]

Sources in Jerusalem last night disclosed that Syria no longer insists that Israel make a public commitment to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights—provided that it makes clear to Damascus or the United States that this is its intention. The sources further said that the Syrians made it clear that they will not be ready to accept leaving Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights after the withdrawal, and that they demand that the settlements be evacuated.

Political sources last night estimated that the results of Operation Accountability have strengthened the three main figures in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations—al-Asad, Rabin, and Christopher—and that this will give the Israeli-Syrian negotiations an edge over the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau stressed last night that the "understandings" reached in the wake of Operation Accountability are, in fact, the first agreement made since the Madrid conference was first held. The sources noted that Rabin regards Christopher's mediation an efficient tool for the quick promotion of the negotiations.

Rabin today will hold a series of consultations in anticipation of Christopher's arrival here. Among others, he will meet Israel's U.S. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, who was in the center of the contacts with the United States over the past few days. [passage omitted]

Sources in Jerusalem reported that in his meetings with the Palestinians, Christopher will discuss early empowerment over several of the Civil Administration authorities, according to Israel's offer. The Palestinians have asked that the parties not use the term "early empowerment" [last two words printed in English], as Israel suggested, but that the term "early assumption" [last two words printed in English] be used because they would not like to be portrayed as being given the authorities out of Israel's goodwill. Sources in Jerusalem said last night that the change of term is acceptable. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Effective 1500 GMT on 31 July

IDF Remains on Alert

TA3107154393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1515 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Telephone announcement by 'Oded Ben-'Ami, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's media adviser—live]

[Text] The official announcement says that in the wake of katyusha shelling by the Hizballah terrorist organization on northern settlements and the security zone, the government ordered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to operate against Hizballah and other terrorist organizations in south Lebanon in order to prevent the shelling. The IDF operated in south Lebanon this week to fulfill that mission. In the wake of political contacts, understandings were reached via the United States with the governments of Lebanon and Syria, and the forces of

influence in Lebanon. The essence is that from now on Hizballah terrorists will stop katyusha shelling at Israeli soil, and the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] will continue to act to defend the security zone.

In view of the understandings and the achievement of the aims of the military operation, the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs ordered the chief of staff to instruct the IDF to stop the military activity in south Lebanon—undertaken within the framework of Operation Accountability—as of 1800 [1500 GMT] today, 31 July. The prime minister said today that the implementation of the understandings will be tested first and foremost by the fact that from now on katyushas will not be launched at Israeli soil and Hizballah terrorist activity will be reined in.

IDF troops will remain on the alert and any violation of the understandings achieved via the United States will be responded to sharply by the IDF. The Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs expects the quiet to return to both sides of the border between Israel and Lebanon, including the security zone. Life will return to normal and the quiet will also permit the return of south Lebanese inhabitants to their homes.

The announcement concludes: The prime minister and the government express their gratitude and appreciation to the IDF soldiers and their commanders who completed the mission successfully. To the residents of the northern settlements, who man Israel's defense and security line, and whose courage in difficult times in the past and present is exemplary for their steadfastness, which permitted the completion of the military operation, deserve to be honored and thanked. Gratitude is also expressed to SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers and their commanders, and the inhabitants of the security zone for their part in the war against terrorism. That is the government announcement.

Rabin Comments at News Conference

TA3107175593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1602 GMT 31 Jul 93

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the cease-fire achieved in southern Lebanon, in Tel Aviv—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin]...the goal of Operation Accountability was to bring about a change in the patterns of conduct of the terrorist organizations, led by Hizballah, so as to prevent turning the settlements of northern Israel into hostages for the struggle which has been going on for eight years over the security zone, a zone whose importance for the safety of our settlements and residents on our border with Lebanon is great.

The objective of the operation this time was to use fire mainly in order to create circumstances that would make possible understandings with the elements of power that influence the operation of terrorist organizations in Lebanon, understandings that will prevent the firing of katyushas at Israel's territory and will enable the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [Southern Lebanese Army] forces to effectively defend the security zone as part of Israel's security. Last week's developments also led to the involvement of elements outside the region. The United States responded to our appeal and acted for the achievement of understandings, not agreements. The United States acted for the achievement of understandings with the key elements: Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and others, to achieve quiet or more quiet in the region, with our main goal indeed being to prevent the firing of katyushas at our settlements, to render possible the freedom of action for the defense of the security zone. I believe that the understandings which have been achieved and handed to us....[pauses] Since last Wednesday [28 July], including last night and today, I had maintained close personal contacts with Secretary of State Warren Christopher in order to reach the conclusion of these understandings. I believe that understandings have been created, which, if indeed implemented in the area, will make possible a change in the situation in all that concerns the security of the residents of the northern settlements and the security zone.

I do not seek victories. I am looking for solutions for problems, and I hope that what has been achieved as understandings will indeed be implemented in the area. Only the coming days and weeks will bear evidence to this. We did not aim only at stopping the fire. We aimed at changing a situation, a situation in which the settlements turned into hostages at the hands of Hizballah.

In order to achieve these results, all components of the IDF operated effectively, resolutely, and with determination. I would like to express deep appreciation to the chief of staff, the leaders of the General Staff, the commander and soldiers of the Northern Command, the Air Force's commander and pilots, the Navy commander and sailors—all of them fulfilled their duty properly, in a perfect manner, which commands our appreciation and respect. I would like to express thanks and gratitude to the residents of the northern settlements. They became the target for the katyushas. They were forced to remain in air raid shelters and reinforced security rooms. There were also economically harmed. I have no doubt that had it not been for the steadfastness of the residents of the northern settlements, it is doubtful whether the IDF and the government would have been able get to this moment of reaching understandings that could change the situation.

The IDF is well-prepared, however. The IDF will remain prepared to face any development that is incompatible with the understandings, hoping that this will not happen. As I said during and before the operation, we hope for and want security and quiet for the residents of Israel on our border with Lebanon, and we want security and quiet to prevail also for all residents of southern Lebanon. We are not interested in increasing the tension between us and Lebanon. On the contrary, we want to reach calm, quiet, and peace, and I am hopeful that against the backdrop of these developments, the visit by

the U.S. secretary of state this coming week may even speed up the peace negotiations with Lebanon, and not only with Lebanon.

I would like to express appreciation for the secretary of state, who acted day and night. We maintained contacts all the time, at strange hours, both day and night, in order to reach these understandings, the test of which begins today. Only if they are implemented in the area will we feel the results. Only then will we achieve the quiet on both sides of the border between us and Lebanon, between our population and Lebanon's population.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shlomo Raz] Mr. Rabin, what guarantee do we—especially the inhabitants of northern Israel—have that Hizballah will uphold the agreement and stop shelling the north?

[Rabin] We are not talking about guarantees. All of us are veterans of wars and military operations in Lebanon, and aware of the reality there. Had you asked me what the main guarantee is, I would have said it is IDF might, which was put into operation only partially to achieve this end. The second guarantee is the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the settlements in the north. The third is U.S. involvement and achieving understandings with the governments of Lebanon and Syria, at least in the field of katyusha shelling of targets in Israel.

[IDF Radio's Tziyon Nanus] Mr. Prime Minister, when those understandings are implemented, in your view, will there be only a temporary time-out until there is katyusha shelling once again at northern settlements or can inhabitants of the north now sleep peacefully in their beds?

[Rabin] Our only aim is to bring about peace and quiet, and I stress, quiet on both sides of the border. We believe that the inhabitants of south Lebanon deserve to build homes and live in security and peace. In order to cope with the Hizballah and other terror, we were forced—we were forced to bring about the movement of the Lebanese residents from southern Lebanon. I wish them to return to leading quiet lives, but the address for their demands must be the Lebanese Government, which must deal properly with Hizballah and other terrorist organizations. The address must also be Syria, which should back the Lebanese Government in disarming Hizballah of heavy weapons, just as it did to all the other militias: the Lebanese, the Christian, the Druze, the Palestinians, leaving only Hizballah not disarmed. I believe that if that happens, there will be calm. And if there is calm, it will be possible to find a solution for the entire south Lebanon problem. I hope that will be a part of the peace to be reached between Lebanon and Israel.

[Israel Television's Gadi Sukenik] Can you tell us more about how Syria and Lebanon promised that Hizballah would stop the shelling in the north?

[Rabin] I have already said what the aims of the operation were. They were two-pronged: One, that from now on there will not be katyusha shelling against targets on Israeli soil. The other is freedom of action for the IDF and SLA in the security zone. We received understandings on both. The future will tell what will happen and we are prepared for any eventuality. I will not go into details. We receive the understandings from the United States. [Qol Yisra'el breaks way at this point as the news conference turns to questions and answers in English; the station returns as the news conference returns to questions and answers in Hebrew]

[Rabin, in progress] ...First, as I said, the test of all the understandings and the cease-fire within the framework of Operation Accountability will come in the coming days and weeks. For us, the problem is not a cease-fire of two or three days, it is changing the mode of operation. Secretary of State Christopher will be here Tuesday. He is coming first and foremost with the aim of advancing the peace negotiations, and I believe he will do that. As I said 45 minutes ago, I spoke with him, and I believe that is his serious intention. The future will show whether the operation will have an impact or not. I have several good reasons to believe that it will, but I will not go into them.

[HADASHOT's Amnon Barzilay] Do you expect Hizballah to be disarmed?

[Rabin] I did not say what I expect. I note with regret that the Lebanese had to leave their homes and the fact that the Lebanese Army was not given Syrian backing to disarm Hizballah of its heavy weapons, which was responsible for the disaster and the suffering imposed on the inhabitants of south Lebanon.

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, the agreement or understanding says that the katyusha shelling will cease. What about the security zone in south Lebanon, where we also have fighting forces?

[Rabin] As defense minister, I had the honor of withdrawing 15,000 IDF soldiers from Lebanon when I took over as defense minister in the national unity government in September 1984. In order to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon, but also to assure peace and quiet for the Galilee, the security zone was established. It has been carrying the burden of providing security for the settlements and inhabitants of the north for nine years during continuous fighting by hundreds and even thousands of SLA soldiers. Both the IDF and SLA pay a high price in human losses in order to achieve the aim of peace for Galilee. This operation was not aimed at achieving an overall cease-fire in Lebanon between us and the various terrorist organizations, including Hizballah. It was aimed at two things, and I defined them at the start: no more katyushas at the settlements and inhabitants of the north, and of course, freedom of action for the IDF and SLA in defending the security zone against attackers inside and outside the zone.

[Nanus] It is now about 90 minutes after the cease-fire went into effect. When will we be able to tell the inhabitants of the north that they can leave their shelters?

[Rabin] I instructed the Army to act carefully and to weigh to what extent the cease-fire and the understandings will be translated into reality on the ground. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, will issue pertinent instructions to each settlement. We hope the understandings will be implemented. But, on the other hand, the IDF will maintain a high alert, and adequate preparedness will be maintained in each settlement along our border with Lebanon against any development that does not match the understandings.

Summarizes Points of 'Understanding'

TA0108170093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is now briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Operation Accountability and its outcome. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

The prime minister started out by saying that according to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] estimate, between 50 and 70 terrorists were killed in the operation and between 400 and 500 civilians and terrorists were wounded. He also reported that the terrorists launched 274 katyushas, of which 142 fell on Israeli soil and 132 in the security zone. Rabin said the IDF's aim was to prevent Hizballah from launching katyushas if the area around the security zone heats up. Later, he described the development of his contacts with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He said the summation of our understanding with the United States is the following: Under no circumstances will katyushas be launched at Israel. Rabin said the term cease-fire is unsuitable because what is involved is a halt to katyusha shelling of Israel. If IDF troops are attacked inside the security zone, Israel has the right to respond militarily—including villages from which we are attacked—without that leading to a rocket attack on Israel. Rabin said the stress should not be on a cease-fire now, but from now on.

Peres: Cease-Fire 'Not End of Reckoning'

TA3107171193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by Gay Zohar and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Is that the end of the matter?

[Peres] That is the end of Operation Accountability; it is not the end of reckoning in general.

[Levi] How would you sum up the achievements of the operation?

[Peres] I think that the advantages of the operation were the following: First, the aims we presented ourselves were not too high and, therefore, not unattainable. The aim was very pragmatic and very clear and, therefore, attainable. Second, there was no tendency to use ground forces, which would have caused many fatalities. Third, it ended quite fast as a result of quite a good combination of diplomatic and military effort. Therefore, the limited aim—concern for northern Israel—was achieved. It does not mean we have resolved all the problems.

[Zohar] What about the katyusha rockets, which concern us all?

[Peres] That is the main issue. I hope they will cease.

[Zohar] For how long, do you think?

[Peres] We hope for a maximum period of time, at least until next summer, and I hope that by then we will achieve peace.

[Levi] Mr. Peres, it is true that the katyushas were the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] main target, but that Operation Accountability also started due to incidents in the security zone, and Israel has not managed to include that in the cease-fire.

[Peres] The status of the security zone has not changed, and if they try to attack it, our forces, and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], will use the means we have been using up to now.

[Zohar] How exactly was the understanding reached? Is there a document signed by Hizballah?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. An understanding was achieved, and it is very much an verbal understanding. We are used to living with verbal understandings with the Syrians and others. We must say that the Syrians have so far honored verbal agreements just as they have honored written agreements.

[Zohar] Who will guarantee the agreement?

[Peres] The IDF.

[Zohar] What about the Americans?

[Peres] They too. The Americans fulfilled a primary role, and we are definitely grateful to them. They worked very nicely and we appreciate it. As was reported in the media, the negotiations were conducted between our prime minister and the prime minister of Lebanon and the Syrian foreign minister, and to a large extent, the person who conducted the negotiations was Secretary Christopher.

[Levi] That means Israel negotiated not only with the United States, but also with the Arab elements.

[Peres] I did not say that. I said that Mr. Christopher did that.

[Zohar] In other words, there were no direct contacts between Israel and Syria?

[Peres] No.

[Levi] But there are direct contacts at the peace talks. Why not here?

[Peres] No, it was done via the American channel.

[Zohar] Did we receive any commitment from the Syrians that they have become convinced that they are responsible for the situation in Lebanon?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. I think understandings were reached between the Syrians and the Americans. Look, interests are involved. We are aware that Syria is more than just a military and political adviser in Lebanon. It is a fact that it has 30,000 soldiers on Lebanese soil. I also think the Syrians worked quite hard to enable al-Hariri to come to power, and now they want to divert efforts to the economic sphere. What has just happened in Lebanon could have destroyed all that, and it would definitely have harmed the Syrian interest.

[Levi] How do you view the peace process? How did the operation harm the process, if at all?

[Peres] The action against Hizballah to a large extent also supports the peace process since Hizballah wanted to destroy the peace process. Therefore, we had to prevent those who wanted to destroy the process from succeeding. The peace process is similar to paving a road: We have to remove obstacles and continue to lay the foundations for the road itself.

[Zohar] What about the 500,000 south Lebanese inhabitants, who at the advice of the IDF fled northward?

[Peres] First, I think those figures are exaggerated, but I do not want to go into that. There are not so many inhabitants. They can, however, definitely return to their villages. I will also say that as an Israeli, I am happy that they can return to normal life. We had no intention of harming them, we had no intention of converting them into refugees. But, just as we would not want our 150,000 people to live in shelters, we also do not want others to do it. Therefore, in my view, everybody can slowly—according to IDF instructions—return to normal life.

[Zohar] The question is whether there is something to go back to on the other side. We understand from the reports emanating from Lebanon that IDF attacks after the people fled would make it hard for them to return.

[Peres] No, I think that 150 to 200 houses are involved. That is the information I have.

[Levi] Do you think the operation's achievements justify the fact that Israel forced so many people to leave their homes?

[Peres] Truthfully, I would have been happier had we been able to do it differently. None of us is happy to see tens of thousands of people leaving their homes. It does not make us at all happy, but when I ask myself what the options were, I must admit there were not many, if any at all.

[Zohar] In the final analysis?

[Peres] First, I am very happy, and we should all be happy, that the operation has ended quickly. We did have fatalities, but it could have developed into something much worse. The IDF met its promises to the inhabitants of the Galilee. I would like to say one more thing. It is clear that the conclusion of Operation Accountability is not the end of the state's commitment to the northern settlements. One of the things that has to be done is to convert the hardship that beset the Galilee into a development boom for Upper Galilee.

Comments on Syrian Motives

TA0108054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Tzvi Lidar and Shlomo Raz—live]

[Excerpt] [Lidar] Mr. Peres, how solid is the cease-fire agreement?

[Peres] To know how solid it is, we need to examine the partner to the agreement, not the whether it was written or verbal. It is true that Syria does not always observe decisions made elsewhere, but there was not a single case when Syria violated an agreement with, or commitment made to Israel, whether written or verbal, made directly or indirectly.

[Lidar] Can we speak of a new era in our relations with the Syrians and focus on the peace talks with the Syrians?

[Peres] I would not go as far as saying this is a new era. When we reach a peace agreement with Syria, it will be a new era. We can say that quite a large obstacle was removed. It was placed in the middle of the peace process track and was removed with relatively few casualties.

[Raz] Do you believe that now there is a chance of making better progress in the negotiations with Syria and that we should currently focus on this track and less on the Palestinian track?

[Peres] I agree that an opportunity was created to turn over a new leaf with Syria. At the same time, I see no reason why we should tone down the negotiations with the Palestinians. We have never linked one track of the negotiations with another, and we have never agreed for someone else to do so.

[Lidar] With your permission, let us speak of the price. Who will pay for the agreement? After all, they did not agree to it simply because they like the other parties involved.

[Peres] Primarily, they wanted to prevent harm to themselves. It is not just a matter of gains. When Syria made

the decision, it weighed the entire balance of the damages that could have been caused had the operation continued, and of the gains it could make if it stopped. Objectively speaking, and even from a certain distance from the events, Syria worked very hard to set up the al-Hariri government. It worked very hard to allow al-Hariri to devote his efforts to his main goal—the economic rehabilitation of Lebanon. Syria regards itself responsible for whatever goes on in Lebanon—which is the truth. The operation nearly destabilized both things. Syria's primary consideration was its own status in Lebanon. I would also like to add that Hizballah does not answer to Syria, though it has enjoyed the fact that Syria allowed the passage of arms and supplies from Iran. The other thing we should keep in mind is the fact that Syria has more than one aspiration. Even if it has decided to make peace with Israel. It also wants to improve its relations with the United States. It clearly wants to remain a leader in the Arab world. Hence its reasoning is slightly more complex than just the territorial aspect.

[Lidar] There is also the American list of countries that support terrorism. Does Israel positively view the fact that Syria might be removed from this list?

[Peres] Israel was not asked. It is an American decision. As long as terror and rejectionist organizations have their commands and headquarters on Syrian soil, we hold Syria responsible for their operations, I mean, Ahmad Jibril, George Habash, and a some 10 others. I hope that Syria is not only taken off the list, but that it also stops supporting terror, even if indirectly. [passage omitted]

Says al-Asad Keen on Peace

TA0208065993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—recorded "about an hour ago"]

[Text] [Zohar] Mr. Peres, does Secretary of State Christopher's attempt to create a direct channel of communications between Rabin and al-Asad constitute a change in the nature of the contacts and talks?

[Peres] Occasionally the Americans, just like us, try to examine where things can advance more quickly. Sometimes this happens on the Palestinian track, other times on the Syrian track. It is true that Ross' delegation returned from Damascus with positive impressions. The way al-Asad played his cards during the last affair has undoubtedly strengthened the feeling that there is a negotiating partner here and that there are things to talk about.

[Dan] How do you perceive al-Asad's recent behavior? It looks as though he really needs the United States.

[Peres] Look, we tend to forget that political interests are always variegated. Al-Asad's behavior is directed by at least four different considerations: One, he wants Lebanon to remain in a good state. Syria worked very hard to establish al-Hariri's government and to help the Lebanese Government rehabilitate Lebanon's economy. Operation Accountability threatened all these achievements, as well as the stability of al-Hariri's government. There was a real Syrian interest to return things to normal. They encountered great difficulties in holding parliament elections, for example. An upheaval in Lebanon is acutely felt in Damascus.

Two, I believe al-Asad indeed wants to improve his relations with the United States. We must recall that when al-Sadat started the peace process with Israel he was aiming at U.S. support. From this point of view, there is no difference between al-Asad and al-Sadat.

Three, I really believe that al-Asad is interested in the peace process, because following the disintegration of the Soviet Union he has no real prospects in terms of the military balance.

Four, I do not think that al-Asad has given up on his desire to achieve hegemony in the Arab world. The fact that the Arab foreign ministers convention was held in Syria, for example, is an achievement for him. So there are four considerations here. The interesting thing here is that parties with different interests have converged in one temporal inn, so to speak, and surprisingly found out they have a joint interest, a thing that contributed toward the positive termination of the operation.

[Zohar] Why do Rabin and al-Asad not want to enter the inn you mentioned, and hold a direct summit there?

[Peres] What they are saying is that the parties are sitting together in Washington. Tactically, we all know that al-Asad is conducting the peace process just as one conducts a military campaign: Slowly, patiently, directed by strategic and tactical considerations. He has other reasons for proceeding slowly: One, he wants to achieve as much as possible before the real negotiations begin at the senior level. Two, I think he is so fond of the negotiations that he does not want them to end. Three, according to the Egyptians, al-Asad is in the process of preparing Syrian public opinion for peace. Hitherto the Syrian people have been educated against Israel and peace with Israel, and this was engraved deeply on their souls. From this respect this is a process of exorcism.

[Dan] Let us return to the daily situation in south Lebanon. Hizballah claims it has never agreed to stop firing at Israel. To what extent can anybody, including the Syrians, control Hizballah?

[Peres] First, the Syrians doubtlessly have influence. Hizballah itself got quite a scare, because they suffered serious casualties and turned public opinion among the villagers in south Lebanon against them by causing great damage. The understanding achieved, while being clear, is also limited in nature: No more katyushas are to be fired at the Galilee, but no real agreement was achieved

concerning the security zone. Over there all the parties can defend their own interests.

[Zohar] But there is a big difference between this and between directing fire at our northern settlements.

[Peres] Certainly.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Rabinovich on U.S. Role in Cease-Fire

TA0108064993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, in Washington by Gay Zohar and Gilat Levi—recorded "earlier this morning"]

[Text] [Zohar] What did the agreement reached over the weekend teach us about U.S. involvement?

[Rabinovich] The way the U.S. Administration functioned is encouraging. This is the second time it solved a problem or crisis in the Israeli-Arab arena. Last winter, the administration resumed the peace process by solving the deportee problem. This is the second time. The administration was very professional, cool-headed, and proficient. From Israel's point of view, we have a good partner. Over the past few days, I was repeatedly asked whether I felt any U.S. pressure. I responded: No, everything was conducted in a relaxed manner, and there were similar views. I believe that if we were called upon to create a comfortable setting for Christopher's visit in the region, then this state of affairs would suit us fine.

[Levi] What can we expect of the visit, then?

[Rabinovich] Expectations are high. After all, the two last rounds of negotiations yielded very limited results. A first working document that both we and the Palestinians agreed to was drafted. Very little was achieved in the talks with Syria, where we made no progress in these two rounds. The visit should free the peace process from its present difficulties and move it forward on one or both tracks.

[Zohar] In the Israeli press review you will receive in the morning, you will see that some of the headlines, commentaries, and private citizens are saying that, following the cease-fire agreement and everything that led to it, the residents of the Golan Heights should begin worrying, mainly in view of U.S.-Syrian relations.

[Rabinovich] Well, I will read the press review when I get it. We are trying to promote the peace process without causing concern to any sector of the Israeli population.

[Zohar] Do you believe that the U.S.-Israeli-Syrian triangle is unbalanced because the Syrians gained points?

[Rabinovich] Certainly not. They are aware that Syria cannot play both host to terror organizations, such as Ahmad Jibril and Hizballah, and mediator, trying to score points by helping to solve a crisis they partly created through aid to the terrorists. In the negotiations, we will certainly not ignore this point.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 1 August adds that "Ambassador Rabinovich has said the most important element is that Syria has explicitly offered to prevent the firing of katyushas at Israel. Ambassador Rabinovich added that the United States did not ask for, nor was it given, a Syrian promise that Iranian arms will no longer be transferred to Hizballah in Lebanon via Damascus."]

Ben-Eli'ezer on Syrian Guarantees

TA3107194593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Harley Braidman—live]

[Text] [Braidman] On the line with us now is Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, one of the first ministers to call 10 days ago for a wide-scale Israeli action in Lebanon.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Well, I think that, when I say understanding between the United States and all the governments, this means that somehow there is a commitment between the governments to the United States. Listen, there is no agreement between us and the Hizballah, and I don't think that there is any possibility to get, to work upon, any agreement between us and a guerrilla unit. The only thing that we could do—and that's what happened—is to put the pressure on and to try to speak with those, or to try to work upon understanding with those who, without them, the Hizballah couldn't work in that area, couldn't feel that free, couldn't understand that he can press upon any kind of gun that easy. [sentence as heard] So the fact that the understanding happened to be between the Governments of Lebanon and Syria—that, for me, is enough because if those two governments will decide to put a pressure to the Hizballah and if they will decide to put restrictions on the movement of the Hizballah to the south, on the activity of the Hizballah to the south, I think we can be sure that this will happen.

[Braidman] What guarantees do we have that the Syrian pressure will be maintained? What interest does Syria have to keep the Hizballah from firing at Israel?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Well, I don't know what interest. I can tell you just one thing: The fact that the whole understanding has been achieved through the Americans, it may indicate that the Syrians have a great interest with what has to do with the Americans. Let's put it that way. The whole thing is not started only with this operation. The whole thing is started with the operation, but it should be ended by achieving an agreement between us and the Syrians and the Lebanese. Don't forget that.

[Braidman] And couldn't the agreement have been reached through American pressure, without having this whole operation a week ago, before this began, before Israeli soldiers were killed and civilians....

[Ben-Eli'ezer, interrupting] Well, let me put it that way. The aims and reasons for that operation have nothing to do with the peace process. I would say the aims and the reasons—it was consequences of very long suffering process. It happened to be on the shoulders of our people that live in the south. [sentence as heard] We couldn't accept that, and we'll not accept that anymore. I mean it's impossible to accept the fact that people and children are growing under katyushas; it's impossible.

[Braidman] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, thank you very much.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Thank you.

Sarid, Shahal, Der'i Praise Rabin

TA0108140093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] General satisfaction was expressed during today's cabinet session regarding the understandings attained over the weekend resulting in the cease-fire. The ministers assessed that the cessation of the operation will have a positive effect on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to our region. Christopher will arrive in Israel Monday [2 August] evening and will meet Prime Minister Rabin Tuesday morning. Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Nanus] One of the participants in today's session said that the only thing missing in the meeting was an outbreak of hurrahs. All the ministers warmly praised the way in which Prime Minister Rabin directed the operation and the results of the lengthy consultations held over the weekend with Syria and Lebanon via the United States. Even Minister Yosi Sarid, who over the last week repeatedly criticized the operation, today joined the chorus of praise.

[Sarid] The ministers today praised the prime minister. Let me reiterate that under the present circumstances, this arrangement is very good, better than what I expected it to be.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1640 GMT on 31 July carries an interview with Sarid by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, who asked him whether in retrospect he agrees with the operation. Sarid replies: "I believe that my prayers to a certain extent helped. The agreement looks good. My heart is full of happiness. I am pleased for the inhabitants of the north." Sarid says he "hopes the agreement that went into effect will remain in effect, and we will have an easier time." He assesses the durability of the guarantees provided for the understandings reached by saying that "since very important and influential elements in the Middle East, and not only there, are involved in it, it is not just a paper agreement but apparently a real agreement with strong foundations."]

[Nanus] Security elements briefed the ministers that Hizballah is implementing the cease-fire on the ground, but it is still not clear what is happening with the Palestinian rejectionist organizations, which have no intentions of honoring the cease-fire. All the sides realize that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is free to react, and that the firing of katyushas must stop. All the parties apparently realize what are Israel's red lines.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the ministers that the operation had limited aims, and that the new understandings meet Israel's objectives. Rabin added that now there is a better atmosphere for pursuing the dialogue with Syria and Lebanon.

We heard two opinions regarding the effects of Operation Accountability on the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. We asked Ministers Moshe Shahal and Arye Der'i what effect will the new understandings have on this visit.

[Shahal] This will provide Secretary Christopher with the opportunity to initiate political negotiations based on these understandings. I would say that the trust vested in an unsigned, oral agreement between the sides will enable the parties to speak about a long-term political arrangement.

[Der'i] Let me caution that the new situation can bring about more Syrian demands, because Syria could feel that it has already done everything necessary to bolster a moderate image in the United States. Consequently it could toughen its demands vis-a-vis Israel. The same might hold true for the Palestinians.

[Nanus] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Israel Monday evening, and will meet Prime Minister Rabin on Tuesday morning. He will then travel to Damascus and Amman, after which he will return to Israel and meet Rabin again on Thursday. Christopher is also scheduled to meet Palestinian leaders, Foreign Minister Peres, and perhaps President Weizman, as well.

Referring to the new understandings, Prime Minister Rabin today told the ministers that Israel will have to deal with them with caution, because they are not firmly cemented, and we must see whether they will be implemented on the ground. [end recording]

Likud, Moledet, Meretz Hail Agreement

TA3107202493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] We have a few reactions to the cease-fire agreement: Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says he is not familiar with the terms of the agreement, but if the goals of the Israeli operation have been achieved, he is satisfied. The test, Netanyahu said, will be whether or not

residents of the north can return to their routines without the threat of katyusha attacks.

Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi praised the government for the agreement. He said the operation was halted in time, and he said if the agreement is kept the goals of the operation will have been met. Ze'evi expressed the hope that Israel did not undertake to pay for the agreement with a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The left-wing Meretz faction said it welcomes the agreement. [Knesset] faction leader Ran Kohen said Meretz' insistence that ground troops not be involved in the operation was crucial in preventing Israel from getting stuck in Lebanon.

Netanyahu: Syria Should Not Be Rewarded

TA0108083293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Gay Zohar and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Last night we reported your initial reaction to the end of the operation. You said you are satisfied with the result and hoped that the region remain quiet, which would serve as a test for the cease-fire agreement. Are you worried this morning that, in view of the agreement, Syria has strengthened and scored points with the Americans?

[Netanyahu] I would first like to know the details of the agreements made.

[Zohar] Do you feel that they are hiding anything?

[Netanyahu] No, it is just that I expect the prime minister to maintain his recent habit, which is correct and important, to update the opposition. I can openly say that in the State of Israel, the opposition is loyal. We want to know what was agreed on. As for the goal, naturally, the test will be if quiet is maintained along the northern border for a long period of time. I believe Israel should reserve its freedom of movement, not only concerning firing of katyushas on our northern settlements, but also in the context of ground attacks in the security zone. After all, the security zone protects us from ground infiltrations of the settlements. I have always maintained that pressuring Syria is the key to restoring calm. Such pressure was indeed exerted, including heavy U.S. pressure. I believe that there is no reason why, in the coming contacts, Syria should be rewarded for the elementary thing it has done.

[Levi] The question is whether such a U.S.-Syrian understanding should make the residents of the Golan Heights worry about the fate of their homes?

[Netanyahu] I hope not. Suppose Syria attacked us from the Golan, no one would even think that it should be rewarded for its aggression. We would have demanded that the aggressor be moved out. This is the legitimate right of self-defense that every country is entitled to. Syria did not directly attack us, but it did attack us indirectly, with indirect forces. The best proof for that is the fact that once Syria decided that Hizballah attacks should stop, they stopped. We have all seen they have them under control. For us, it makes no difference whether Syria attacks directly or indirectly. Our basic, solid, legitimate demand is that they stop the attacks, and no reward will be offered. This should be our position when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives here, and I would make it the main point of discussion, not just one of the issues.

Intelligence Chief Comments

TA0108073693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Report by Karmela Menashe on Intelligence Branch Chief Uri Sagi's meeting with military correspondents "last night"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] The entire Intelligence Branch, including assessments, collection, operations, and other operational departments, made an important contribution to Operation Accountability. Major General Uri Sagi, chief of the Intelligence Branch, said that all parties' vital efforts contributed to the solution.

[Sagi] In the meantime, we can say that through direction and mediation efforts by the United States, all the involved elements acknowledged their joint interests. Although there are still numerous points of conflict, the parties have been able to identify shared interests, and that may lead to understandings in other spheres. I can only hope this will happen.

[Menashe] Yet the terrorist infrastructure, the Hizballah centers, have survived.

[Sagi] There is an additional Hizballah infrastructure. Although Hizballah has been dealt a blow, we must not forget that it remains operational and capable of responding. We must not entertain exaggerated expectations: It has suffered a blow, but its operational capability has survived.

[Menashe] According to the Intelligence Branch chief, most Hizballah warriors did not abandon the villages where they based their operations.

[Sagi] Some have been hit, others—a minute fraction—may have fled, but most Hizballah warriors in the gray strip adjacent to the security zone remain. In my opinion, the others will return with the rest of the population within a few days.

[Menashe] You mentioned a shift in the concepts of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, as well as the Lebanese Army's assistance against Hizballah.

[Sagi] You do not need my views on that. Suffice with quotes from the Lebanese president and prime minister, who have endorsed Hizballah's attacks and struggle against the security zone and against our and the SLA

[South Lebanese Army] presence there. Over the past week, both condemned the firing of katyushas at Israeli territory. I believe that if they adhere to this line, they will continue safeguarding this situation. Furthermore, they have realized that if they wish to maintain order and security inside Lebanon, they must use the Lebanese Army—and they did.

I do not remember mentioning a change in the Syrian concept concerning their overall view of the situation in Lebanon. I do think Syria now realizes that to avoid the State of Israel and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] threat to its fundamental interests in Lebanon, a settlement in Lebanon should become one of its fundamental interests. This consideration prompted a Syrian response. I think talking about a change in Syria's comprehensive outlook is premature; its position on both Lebanon and the political process will become apparent with time.

Baraq Offers Assessment

TA3107195593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari and military correspondent Beni Liss, in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Liss] Good evening, Lieutenant General Baraq. Did we need such an intensity of fire over a whole week in order to reach an understanding?

[Baraq] The aim of the firepower was to achieve the result quickly, unequivocally, and with minimum losses. In order to achieve that, we had to exploit the area where we have the upper hand, and that is firepower, in general—and pinpointed and night fire, in particular, as well as the use of the Air Force, artillery, armored forces, and mobile infantry. And that is what we did.

[Liss] There are reports that villages beyond the security zone were wiped out by that firepower.

[Baraq] No village was wiped out. The area we dealt with has 25,000 to 30,000 houses, and even if 150 to 200 houses—which were known to house activists who supported and aided Hizballah—were damaged by direct hits, to me it is absolutely reasonable and essential under the circumstances in which we found ourselves. Of course, there are many other houses that were damaged by the artillery fire we were forced to use in order to separate the Hizballah from the civilian inhabitants.

[Ya'ari] How far do you think the threat of a ground operation helped us?

[Baraq] In my view, the Army has to prepare for a wide range of possibilities that could develop and anything it might be called on to do to achieve our aim. Within that context, there must be planning and real preparations so that we are ready in case we have to implement them, which is a necessary condition for carrying out such an operation. At the same time, we wanted very much not to carry it out, and I am pleased that we did not have to get to it. Had the situation called for it, we would have done it. Therefore, I do not call it a threat. It was in the background, good that it was there, and I hope it contributed its part.

[Ya'ari] To what extent do you think the other side was aware of the possibility that if an agreement—like the one reached today—had not been reached, ground forces would have been deployed?

[Baraq] In my view, they knew.

[Liss] An understanding was reached with Hizballah. What will happen to the forces deployed in the security zone? Will you withdraw them?

[Baraq] The essence of the understanding is that Hizballah will not fire katyushas now or in the future at northern settlements, even when we act in the security zone with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] to defend it against terrorists inside and beyond the zone. The forces in the security zone will continue to defend it, thereby safeguarding Galilee settlements, and we will fight if needed. I am not certain and cannot swear how long the understanding will be upheld, and I definitely cannot promise that no terrorist belonging to a different organization will not launch a single katyusha at the Galilee. However, we are there—we are not leaving—and in the initial days we will keep all the forces there, and then deploy any force needed to make sure the understandings are implemented. If they are not, then we will act as the situation requires.

[Ya'ari] What will you consider a violation of those understandings? A continuation of concentrated activity by Hizballah and its partners is obvious, but also an isolated firing incident, which could occur?

[Baraq] We expect these understandings to be upheld and be implemented, and we have good reason to believe that will be the case. I do not think it is right for me to detail here what we might do in any possible situation. It will suffice to say that we will act wisely, and at the same time, if the understanding is violated, we will react sharply.

[Ya'ari] This is the outcome you wanted?

[Baraq] This outcome is what we believed would happen within that time frame, and to some extent, it is more than we estimated, from some technical and tactical aspects. I would like to use this opportunity to express my appreciation to those who did the work: the Artillery and Armored Corps fighters, and the Air Force pilots, the Navy, and in particular the Northern Command under Maj. Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay and his staff, who, along with the Air Force, bore the brunt of the operation.

Baraq on Syrian Role

TA0108165693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Shlomo Ganor outside the Prime Minister's Office—recorded on 1 August in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Sir, what can we expect in the wake of the understandings achieved yesterday?

[Baraq] We think it is safe to assume these understandings will be preserved. I cannot guarantee this, but if they are not preserved we have enough forces deployed and prepared to deal with the ensuing problem. I do hope, however, that they will be preserved, and that even if the activity in the security zone is continued, no more katyushas land in the Galilee settlements.

[Ganor] How can these understandings help the political process?

[Baraq] I do not think I can assess or analyze this. If there is an impact, however, it will not be necessarily negative.

[Ganor] Based on your previous experience with the Syrians, how do you assess the Syrian involvement here?

[Baraq] I think the Syrians acted out of their own self-perceived interests. Syria has had a great influence in Lebanon over many years. Recently it helped establish a Lebanese Government which, for the first time in 15 years, is taking things seriously and is dealing with the situation in Lebanon seriously. This is a responsible and serious government that is constantly improving its hold on and implementing its sovereignty in Lebanon. We have differences of opinion both with this government and with Syria on many issues, but this should not prevent us from perceiving the positive aspects of its action and the fact that we do not have differences of interests in all areas.

Lubrani on Syrian, Lebanese Army Behavior

TA0208060693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Qital] Do you think that the cease-fire in Lebanon is stable?

[Lubrani] You know just as much as I do. We have to wait and see whether it holds.

[Qital] I hope you know more than I do.

[Lubrani] No. I think we are just starting to test this arrangement. I hope it will hold, but it is impossible to tell yet.

[Qital] Can you identify in this arrangement a new mode of behavior on the part of Syria?

[Lubrani] By being party to and partly responsible for this arrangement Syria has indeed changed its policy. I hope this is not merely a tactical, but rather a strategic change, and that this is the beginning of a process that will enable us to make progress in negotiations with Lebanon over a permanent arrangement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 2 August reports that "the Lebanese Army has sent troops south to supervise areas formerly controlled by Hizballah. This after a meeting last night of the Lebanese Government in which a committee consisting of the prime minister, defense and foreign minister, was formed to carry out a plan for deployment of Lebanese Army troops down to the border of the security zone. Troops meanwhile have been setting up roadblocks in the Tuffah region. A senior army officer told REUTERS news agency that the cease-fire agreement gives the Lebanese Army the power to confiscate the katyusha rockets used by Hizballah, and he says the army has already seized two truck loads of missiles."]

[Qital] This morning we heard that the Lebanese Army is detaining munition trucks—mainly bearing missiles—that Hizballah is trying to pass to the south. Do you think that the Lebanese Army can contain Hizballah?

[Lubrani] I do not believe that today the Lebanese Army can deal with everything that Hizballah is capable of and wants to do. But we see here the beginning of a process: The Lebanese Army is not strong, but apparently it has received clear orders from the government to attempt to prevent the transfer of terrorist ammunition southward. It is beginning to operate, and this is a new phenomenon.

[Qital] In the wake of last week's events, what will transpire between the civilian population, which is returning southward to their villages and towns, and Hizballah?

[Lubrani] We have to wait and see. Hizballah will probably want to prove that nothing has changed, and that despite the fact that it cannot fire katyushas at the Galilee villages, it can undermine the security zone and hassle us in this way. I have no doubt that this is what will happen, and we will have to deal with this. We will have to prove that we are determined to maintain the security zone, as long as we do not have a better arrangement.

[Qital] This means that the understandings reached last Saturday [31 July] do not relate to the security zone, where it's business as usual—meaning that the attacks will continue there.

[Lubrani] Correct.

[Qital] You do not think things have changed there at all?

[Lubrani] I think the difference is that Hizballah will make even greater efforts in the security zone, but we will have to wait and see.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr. Lubrani.

Media Comment on Cease-Fire, Effects on Peace Process

'Somewhat Fragile' Understanding Viewed

TA3107191193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] Rabin was very careful in his news conference this evening when he talked about verbal understandings, not a written agreement, and this is surely significant. The essence of the understandings: The Hizballah terrorists cease the firing of katyushas at Israel's territory, while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] continue to defend the security zone, as has been the case to date. The deal is a personal achievement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Over the last few days, especially yesterday and today, he repeatedly called the Syrian, Lebanese, and Israeli leaders. Therefore, the agreements, if kept, have a far-reaching political meaning. Reference is to personal promises made to the sole superpower. There is no doubt that Rabin and the Americans view this as an improved course of dialogue in preparation for the continuation of the peace process. Furthermore, this may also point to signs of softening by Syria in the future. In fact, Syria undertook to stop the transfer of equipment and heavy weapons to Hizballah from Iran via Damascus and the area under its control in Lebanon.

Judging from past experience, the Syrians keep international agreements, especially because reference this time is to a commitment they made to the Americans. Lebanon undertook to disarm Hizballah of heavy weapons, and Israel will follow up Syrian backing for this, as well as how, for instance, the Syrians will treat Hizballah concentrations in the Lebanese al-Biqa'.

Did the Americans promise the Syrians any political concession in the larger context of the peace talks? Even though it is difficult to believe that the Syrians did not request this, it is said in Rabin's bureau that nothing was promised. Nevertheless, one should take note that the security zone remained outside the agreements. There is a general promise that Hizballah's terror in southern Lebanon will be checked, but it seems that the rules of fighting against our soldiers in that zone remain unchanged.

Incidentally, the SLA commander, General Lahd, this evening received a letter of gratitude and encouragement for the future. Secretary Christopher, too, this evening received a letter of thanks from Rabin. The visiting secretary will arrive in our region a little later than originally scheduled. He will arrive in Cairo on Monday [2 August] and in Israel on Tuesday. Satisfied with what he has achieved, he will now try to promote the peace process.

The cessation of Operation Accountability was approved this afternoon by the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs in a short meeting in Tel Aviv. Tomorrow the entire cabinet will be briefed about the implications of the somewhat fragile understanding.

Al-Asad, Rabin Termed 'Winners'

TA0108103693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a: "The Winners: Al-Asad and Rabin"]

[Text] Operation Accountability ended with cries of triumph. Rabin won—perhaps too much.

The move to curb Hizballah that was supposed to be discreet and behind the scenes has turned into a festive, open understanding between the United States and Syria.

Al-Asad came into the story as the bad guy and walked out of it as the angel of rescue. The points al-Asad scored are very important on the eve of Warren Christopher's Middle East tour. It is good news for the residents of the Galilee, but bad news for the residents of the Golan Heights.

If Rabin and Baraq are correct, the Americans have not imposed any restrictions on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] use of fire in Lebanon. The IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] will continue operating in the security zone and, should the need arise, they will be allowed to return fire across the Red Line, while Hizballah will avoid a retaliation against Galilee. Jibril and the other Palestinian organizations are not part of this understanding, but the main threat to Galilee has been removed.

This is a handsome achievement, even if it has not yet been tested in the field. It is worthy of praise, even if it is temporary. The public is going to love Rabin, Baraq, and the IDF top brass. The Israeli public loves the employment of military force against the Arabs and hates Israeli casualties. Operation Accountability gave it a lot of power with minimum casualties.

Al-Asad may be the big winner, but in the reality created by the peace process, al-Asad, Rabin, and even Christopher can stand side by side on the winners podium. The fact that the victory was cruelly obtained at the expense of hundreds of thousands of refugees will not disturb the cheers for a minute.

History has its ironic face as well: The Likud, which supported the operation with youthful delight, might

find living with its long-term political results quite difficult. Meretz, which opposed the operation, will be blessed with its contribution to an arrangement on the Golan Heights.

The operation showed just how brutal Rabin can be. He was disappointed when, at the beginning of the operation, the residents of south Lebanon did not flee their villages fast enough. Others may have become concerned with the CNN harsh pictures of suffering villagers. Rabin eagerly awaited the harsh scenes. He assumed that only when the American television begins showing them, will the Clinton Administration launch its own operation.

Over the last two days of the operation, Meretz ministers implored that Israel issue a call on the residents of south Lebanon to return to their homes. Rabin refused. He did the opposite. When the first residents were seen returning, Rabin ordered to bomb the bridges.

From the beginning of the operation, Rabin was not too eager to negotiate with Syria. He knew that negotiations with Syria would mean that a price will have to be paid. When asked why does he not ask the Americans to talk to the Syrians, he said: I will not do it on my own initiative. If Christopher makes the contact, I will address myself to it.

Christopher did, and now we will see how the tripartite affair of Christopher, al-Asad, and Rabin develops and what influence it will have on Galilee and the Golan.

Syrian Status Said Improved

TA0108113893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Aug 93 p A1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Operation Succeeded, But the Patient Did Not Recover"]

[Text] "I personally held the contacts," "I instructed," "I ordered," with these triumphant remarks Rabin last night took the credit for the operation and its success. This is reminiscent of his election-night victory speech. This time, however, he had the right. He personally initiated the operation. A lot was given to chance here and, had the operation failed, the public would have demanded that Rabin take the blame.

At the moment, we can say that the operation was a success, but the patient has not recovered. The military operation did not attain a decisive victory. The result was an "understanding" on a cease-fire, which may or may not hold, and maybe "time will tell," as they say. It is a limited achievement that mainly restored the situation to what it was before Hizballah changed it. Nevertheless, the peace-opposing Hizballah has remained in the field as a fighting force, with an option to act and disturb our lives whenever this suits it, Iran, or Syria. At the same time, because of the slim majority Rabin had in the cabinet, there is doubt whether Israel has an option to again retaliate with a large and powerful military operation like Operation Accountability.

This is a new version of the agreement to stop the katyushas that the Begin government made with the PLO in 1981 through Philip Habib's mediation. Then, as well as now, it is hard to swallow the bitter pill that Israel, considered a military superpower, is forced to reach a cease-fire agreement with a terror organization. This time, the organization numbers only some 1,000 fighters. The details of the "understanding" are not totally clear either. For example, it is not clear what restrictions Israel has taken upon itself regarding its freedom to operate beyond the security zone, especially since the Hizballah activity in the security zone has not been banned. Other unknown elements of the "understanding" leave many question marks on the duration it will remain in effect.

Although al-Asad did exactly what we had expected him to, it seems that the main profiteer is the Syrian president, who somehow seems to have won the pot. Despite the fact that it currently appears that Hizballah heated up the border situation with Syrian agreement and active assistance, al-Asad will remain in the American memory, if not as the angel of peace, at least as a moderate, serious, peace-seeking person with whom one can close a deal. This "goodwill" will be translated into U.S. pressure on Israel in the coming weeks of the peace process.

The more important conclusion from the way the operation ended, however, is that nothing will move here without the United States. America was left alone as the policeman of the world. Its involvement salvaged us from again sinking into the Lebanese quagmire, and saved the operation—which was too risky to begin with—from ending in a fiasco that would have humiliated Israel. The United States will demand that we pay, and at the same time it will issue a warning that on the day it quits its involvement in the peace process, we will be on our own, and no one will pull us out of the mud.

Press Comments on IDF Operation

TA0108130393

[Editorial Report] All Hebrew-language newspapers on 1 August carry numerous and diverse editorials, commentaries, and analyses on the Lebanon cease-fire agreement.

While all the commentaries mention the volatile nature of Middle East agreements, they express divergent views on the outcome of Operation Accountability. The commentaries, both those complimenting the cease-fire authors and those skeptical about the outcome, also refer to many other relevant issues, such as the moral aspect, a new facet of Syria which emerged from this crisis, the prospects the arrangement offers to future peace negotiations, and various domestic aspects.

Some, like YEDI'OT AHARONOT's page 2 editorial, signed by Sever Plotzker and titled "Operation Peace," laud the agreement. Plotzker states that "the Rabin-Baraq-Peres concept has proven itself: A massive anti-Hizballah retaliation campaign is worthwhile, while a

comprehensive war in Lebanon is not." The editorial adds that despite "the obvious weaknesses of the cease-fire arrangement—the absence of an overt written and signed agreement, of a pledge to disarm Hizballah, and of a solution to the intricate situation in the security zone, this is the best practical arrangement Israel could achieve in Lebanon." The editorial concludes that "Yitzhaq Rabin's government and Ehud Baraq's General Staff deserve high marks. They showed themselves almost 100 percent perfect in this test."

A commentary by Amnon Barzilay on page 5 of HADASHOT, titled "Strong, Quick, and Elegant" says that the military operation developed "precisely as envisaged by Rabin: It led to a shared Syrian, Lebanese, and U.S. desire to attain a cease-fire." Barzilay asserts that while "the cease-fire will be seen as a major achievement for Christopher, Rabin was its chief engineer. The military and political risks have all been his." He believes that Rabin allowed Syria and the United States to attain agreements that formed the basis for the cease-fire, and the latter "provides the peace process with a renewed momentum, allowing for the emergence of several political ideas revolving around Syria, Israel, and Lebanon."

A similar view is voiced by Dan Avidan in his commentary titled "Syria and Lebanon Will Make an Effort To Curb Hizballah" on page 1 of DAVAR: "The very fact that the Governments of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon—with U.S. mediation—have reached an understanding on curbing Hizballah on the eve of Warren Christopher's visit to the region, creates dynamics that will help Christopher resume Israeli-Arab negotiations in which all the parties will show a desire to attain results in the near future."

A commentary by Daniyel Bloch on page 1 of DAVAR, titled "The Victory of an Understanding," says that the cease-fire's main achievement, beyond the security matter, was on "the political level. This is the first time a combined arrangement comprising both Syria and Lebanon has been achieved." Bloch adds: "It is important to note that the United States has managed to co-opt Syria, with the backing of moderate Arab forces, in the effort against Iran and its terrorist envoys. This may bode well for the future, when the moderate Arab camp, Syria, Israel, and the United States will all be interested in taking joint action against Iran-sponsored fundamentalist radicalism."

The page 9 editorial of 'AL HAMISHMAR, titled "And Now the Peace Process Should Be Accelerated," also lauds the conclusion of Operation Accountability, stating that it has shown that "this is a different, more responsible government," which "settled for limited understandings defined in advance as security needs, rather than allow itself to sink into the Lebanese quagmire." The editorial adds: "It is becoming apparent that the operation helped realize that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments have chosen to disown their partnership with Iranian fundamentalism. They chose to remain within the framework of the new world order and understood the message conveyed by senior Israeli figures that 'there is no conflict between the interests of Israel and Syria and the Lebanese Government with regard to Hizballah.' The awareness of a joint interest with Syria is a jumping board to peace with that country. Syria must not be pushed back into the Iranian alliance, and there is reason to believe that Israeli Government policymakers are aware of this and will act accordingly."

Shim'on Schiffer, in a commentary on page 2 of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, writes: "Syria has undoubtedly emerged from the IDF operation as the winner in the race for the U.S. Administration's affections. Whatever went on in recent days between Warren Christopher and Faruq al-Shar' has resulted in more than an end of the Lebanese affair. It promoted the development of an intimate U.S.-Syrian relationship. The Syrians have proved that they can be instrumental in attaining durable arrangements in the region. The upcoming U.S. secretary of state's trip to our region is thus assuming a new dimension: The odds of a U.S.-mediated Israeli-Syrian breakthrough have grown. Were I a Golan Heights settler now, I would for, the first time, be worried."

HADASHOT's page 2 editorial, signed by Rubik Rosenthal and titled "Not a Moment Too Soon," reflects a less than rosy evaluation of the IDF operation and cease-fire agreement. It asserts that since "Hizballah has hardly sustained any physical damage" and since "its finances and weapon resources remain intact," "the achievement of the IDF operation's declared objectives should at this stage cause no satisfaction to Rabin, Baraq, and the Israeli public." Another negative aspect is the fact that "Israel was again perceived by the world as a country resorting to force in solving its problems, a country ready to violate the moral taboo of harming civilians. This is a heavy price to pay." The HADASHOT editorial's pronouncements are qualified by the observation that "the encouraging aspect of this situation is the resilience of the Lebanese Government and Army, which may bode well for the durability of the agreement and the Hizballah's remaining leashed for a reasonable stretch of time." The editorial concludes that the fact that a multipartite agreement was reached proves that "the problems can be solved through joint agreements, and the absence of agreements is the basis for the next war. Rabin and his government may read this as a warning: If the one important, sweeping agreement is not concluded soon, it will be replaced by wars and operations—not only against Hizballah—which may exact a much heavier price than Operation Accountability has."

Writing under the headline "The Damascus-Sponsored Agreement" on pages A1 and A8 of HA'ARETZ, commentator Ze'ev Schiff states: "The agreement's disadvantage lies not in its being unwritten and unsigned, but in its leaving an opening—unavoidable under the circumstances—meaning that the battle for the security zone will continue." He adds: "It can be reasonably

assumed that Israel's deterrent power vis-a-vis Hizballah will grow in the wake of the operation. If hostilities stop for a few months only, the achievement will be partial. The security zone will become more sensitive, because the cease-fire agreement does not include its population, and refers to Israel only. The achievement can be greater if the parties take advantage of the crisis to accelerate the peace process."

The HA'ARETZ page B2 editorial, entitled "A Cease-Fire on Test" says that while "seemingly the Government of Israel and the IDF are able to point to the success of the strategic concept which guided the operation's steps," "this achievement cannot obliterate the high risk the government and the IDF had taken." Furthermore, "we cannot ignore the terrible harm to thousands of people" in south Lebanon. "Such a thing, the product of sophisticated weapons, cannot be repeated." The editorial goes on to state: "Operation Accountability has not forged a new reality. It has almost implicated the IDF in a prolonged war in Lebanon and placed Israel at odds with the international public opinion, and IDF troops will continue being faced with lethal perils in their activities in the security zone. The operation will register a tangible achievement only if the government is able to use it as a lever to revive the peace process."

Writing in a page A1 commentary in HA'ARETZ titled "Final Accountability," 'Uzi Benziman asserts: "With last night's conclusion of the operation, the Israeli-Lebanese border remains cloaked in a constructive fog: Each of the parties to the conflict and to the subsequent understanding can interpret the outcome in any way that suits it. The resulting fog invites the United States, with the consent of all the sides to the conflict, to continue mediating and to use its clout whenever necessary. And this is perhaps the most important outcome of the operation: the acknowledgment that the region remains volatile, that even today the security zone is still a violent battlefield, and that all the sides need the U.S. services." Benziman concludes: "Warren Christopher is supposed to take advantage of the momentum to promote the political negotiations."

UNIFIL Chief Reports Casualties During IDF Attack

TA0108104193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir this morning conferred with the UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] commander. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the UNIFIL commander raised the issue of the casualties his men suffered during the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in the north. He mentioned the Nepalese and the Irish regiments, and complaints filed by the Finnish contingent.

The Foreign Ministry director general noted that during the IDF operation in Lebanon, Israel did all it could to take UNIFIL into consideration. At the same time, the reinforcement of security and the weakening of Hizballah serve peace, thus helping UNIFIL with its duties. Savir added that cooperation with UNIFIL will continue, and that at present, Israel's Government is focusing on promoting the peace process.

Islamic Jihad Claims Gaza Attack on Israelis

TA0208084693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Four policemen and three Civil Administration workers were wounded in the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood in Gaza this morning, when a UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] bus collided with their cars. The wounded, two of whom are in serious condition, were transferred to Israeli hospitals. Gaza residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that the bus driver came to the UNRWA offices and said that two armed men hijacked the bus and told him to get off. Approximately half an hour after the incident the Islamic Jihad organization took responsibility for the attack. The security forces sealed off the area and launched an investigation.

High Court Deliberates on Stay of Demjanjuk Deportation

TA0108104793

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 1 August reports: "The High Court this morning will deliberate on the petition filed by No'am Federman of the Kakh Movement against the release of John Demjanjuk, who is scheduled to be deported for Kiev in Ukraine this afternoon. The petition is against the attorney general and the police commissioner. Federman says Demjanjuk should stand trial for his role as a guard in Nazi death camps."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 1 August adds: "John Ivan Demjanjuk, the man Israel's Supreme Court cleared of capital charges as Ivan the Terrible who operated the Treblinka concentration camp extermination machinery, is still in prison, despite early morning preparations to extradite him to Ukraine. An eleventh-hour bid to the High Court of Justice resulted in the state attorney ruling that Demjanjuk should be held for a further 10 days, at least while the possibility of drawing up press-charges is examined."

Minister on Israeli Raid, Inter-Arab Relations

JN0108194793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Aug 93 p 12

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar by Halimah al-Farra; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Farra] How would you describe Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and is it true that a confederation between Jordan and Palestine is ready to be enacted?

[Abu-Nuwar] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are the relations of one people with one destiny. We are the sons of one nation. We have a common destiny and future. Jordan has made great sacrifices for the Palestinian people's cause since 1919, when the first Jordanian martyr fell for the cause of God in defense of the Palestinian cause. However, regarding the confederation, we have so far not discussed this issue at the Council of Ministers or at the higher Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committee. But this may take place in the course of the higher committee's action. There are six subcommittees that will coordinate action among themselves and study all the affairs concerning these committees. They might discuss the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Relations could take the form of a union, federation, confederation, a league, economic treaty, or any other form. But, this has not been discussed yet.

[Al-Farra] The Israeli aggression against Lebanon has come a few days prior to the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. Do you think this will affect the peace process and the next round of talks?

[Abu-Nuwar] I believe that what is taking place in Lebanon, taking into consideration the weapons used—on land, sea, and in the air, and the heavy and medium artillery and armors—is not aggression, but an undeclared war. More than 200,000 people fled the region, and there is aggression against civilians. This is a violation of all laws of warfare and human rights. I believe that the action against Lebanon is an all-out war. As for its affect on the peace process, how can we talk about peace in atmospheres of war, killing, destruction, and the displacement of innocent people from their homes. If this open war continues, it will undoubtedly affect the peace process.

[Al-Farra] There are journalists who were not admitted to the association due to restrictions in the association's membership law. Moreover, there are several Arab journalists working in Jordan not allowed to join the association as in other countries. Is there any solution to this issue?

[Abu-Nuwar] I cannot in any way interfere in Jordanian press affairs, particularly in the Jordanian Journalists Association. I asked the head of the association to solve all problems between the association and Arab, Jordanian, and other journalists fraternally and cordially. I told him that he will have my full support. I also postponed all his requests and asked him to wait until 30 September, 1993. So, if they cannot reach a fraternal and cordial solution, we will try to find a solution to this problem in one way or another.

[Al-Farra] Is it possible to enforce a code of honor to be observed by Arab journalists in an attempt to reduce the vituperation and slander that harms Arab relations in general?

[Abu-Nuwar] I believe that this code of honor has become indispensable. In the Jordanian media strategy plan, I included a plan on a code of honor to be observed by Jordanian journalists. This plan is still under discussion, and I hope that Jordanian journalists will approve it. The code is expected to be ready within the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Farra] Where does Jordan stand on recent talks about the need to convene an Arab summit, and how far along are efforts on inter-Arab reconciliation?

[Abu-Nuwar] I cannot speak for his majesty the king. I know, though, that for the past two years his majesty has been pressing for an Arab summit, which the Arab nation now sorely needs. Hopefully, a summit will smooth over Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity grounded in mutual respect and commonly held bonds of Arabism and Islam. We hear voices here and there that this or that Arab state is not inclined to normalize Arab ties for reasons of its own. Jordan, however, holds each and every one of the Arab states with the same degree of brotherly affection. Jordan has not, at any time in the past, done any disservice to any Arab country. On that score, we have a clear conscience. Without exception or reservation, we regard our brother Arabs with affection and warmth. We also take every Arab individual to be one of us. We have never done anything or uttered any word to offend any Arab. As to how far reconciliation efforts have gone, I do not know of any efforts being made in that direction. I do know, however, that the king, government, and people of this country would very much love to see the Arab nation emerge from the state of disarray and fragmentation and Arab relations come back on track.

[Al-Farra] Don't you think that a proliferation of Jordanian political party newspaers may have a negative impact on relations with some Arab countries, given that some papers may abuse certain Arab states?

[Abu-Nuwar] I do not care to name any newspaper in particular. But I read into such negative reporting a bid by a new paper to make its presence felt. Truth be told, the handful of journalists who report unfavorably on certain Arab states discredit Jordan just as much. I would urge such journalists, who profess concern for Arabism, to fear God. I tell them that it does not stand to reason to advocate Arabism and in the same breath abuse fellow Arabs. I hope that such behavior will prove short-lived and party newspapers will know better in the future.

[Al-Farra] What is the state of Jordanian-Syrian relations? Are there plans for a radio and television exchange program?

[Abu-Nuwar] We maintain trouble-free and amicable relations with Syria. As for a television program exchange, we are interested in such relations with all Arab states, including Syria. [passage omitted]

Minister Predicts 'Difficult' Christopher Mission

JN0208063693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" By Lima Nabil]

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Ma'in Abu-Nuwar Sunday said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would have a difficult mission because of the situation in Lebanon in his expected tour of the Middle East.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said the Israeli aggression on Lebanon has caused the displacement of half a million Lebanese, and Mr. Christopher ought to seek the repatriation of these people and encourage the reconstruction of Arab homes destroyed by Israeli attacks on south Lebanon.

The minister added that the U.S. official should also ensure medical and food assistance be provided to the displaced Lebanese civilians by the world community and the United Nations.

"Everybody wishes Mr. Christopher success in his new mission in the region because it is designed to stimulate the peace process, but generally speaking, this mission looks difficult at the moment," said Dr. Abu-Nuwar.

Calling on Israel to stop resorting to threatening language and the use of military force, the minister said the latest onslaught on Lebanon nearly damaged the Arab-Israeli peace process. "I strongly believe that Israel's latest attacks will constitute an obstacle to the peace process," he said.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar maintained that a week of raids and continuous shelling of civilian positions cannot be simply called an aggression, but an all out war directed indiscriminatedly against the people of Lebanon.

"This war has far reaching consequences and no politician can predict the consequences, but I can say that it has caused more damage to Israel's reputation than the 1982 (Israeli) invasion of Lebanon," added Dr. Abu-Nuwar.

Had Israel been seeking real peace it could have stopped flexing its muscles and resorted to reason, he said.

He added that Israel cannot expect Lebanon to demonstrate good intentions towards peace while being subjected to an aggression by the Jewish state.

Tour on Heels of '7-Day War'

JN0208110693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "U.S. Secretary's Tour and the Seven-Day War"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is scheduled to begin a second tour of a number of Middle East capitals, starting with Cairo today, aimed at urging the parties to the peace process to resume the Arab-Israeli negotiations, which are about to be stalemated.

Christopher's second Middle East tour comes following the seven-day war whose smoke is still billowing, adding further importance to the U.S. secretary's mission in light of the new developments in the Middle East, which are different from those prevailing during Christopher's first visit to the region.

It is hoped that the large-scale negative repercussions of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon have not harmed the peace process. The U.S. secretary of state is coming to the region again in order to activate the long-stalled peace process, and after the Israeli aggression forced Warren Christopher to delay his visit.

The explosive situation in southern Lebanon, whose fire could have reached an area wider than southern Lebanon, showed clearly the current fragile situation in the Middle East, and emphasized the need for immediate progress in the peace negotiations before the extremist forces are able to destroy the peace opportunity that may never recur.

It is hoped, therefore, that the U.S. secretary of state this time comes to the region more prepared to work, through the U.S. weight in the region, to force Israel to abide by the principles of international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions, break the stalemate caused by the Israeli intransigence over the past 10 rounds of negotiations, and then turn a new page in the life of the peoples of this region.

'Arabiyat Returns From APU Conference in Beirut

JN0108170393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Speaker of the House of Representative 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat returned to Amman this morning from Beirut where he participated in the Arab Parliamentary Union's [APU] emergency meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression on Lebanon. Speaking to reporters upon his return, Dr. 'Arabiyat said:

[Begin 'Arabiyat recording] You know, this meeting was held in Beirut to support our Lebanese brothers against this treacherous Israeli aggression. The meeting was held at the invitation of the APU.

Most of the Arab countries participated, represented largely by the speakers of parliaments. The situation was discussed and there was unanimous support for Lebanon's honorable and firm stand in defense of the [Arab] nation. Everyone called for supporting Lebanon with all possible means, especially countries that are directly concerned.

Undoubtedly the aggression was harsh but it has abjectly failed to realize its aims. No doubt this operation proved the solidity of Lebanese national unity and has strengthened ties among the various Lebanese groups. We have felt the Lebanese people's absolute support for the mujahidin and found that the Lebanese Government's position against the aggression to be very strong.

Undoubtledy, the APU's resolutions voiced full support for Lebanon in all spheres. An APU committee has been formed to follow up these resolutions, which were frank and clear. [end recording]

Outcome of Arab League Council Meeting Assessed

'Absence of Arab Solidarity' Seen

JN0108171593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Minister of State Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, has described the ministerial meeting held by the Arab League Council in Damascus during the past two days to discuss the Israeli attacks on the Lebanese territories as a positive and successful Arab meeting. He added that the meeting issued resolutions that expressed the Arab nation's solidarity with fraternal Lebanon in confronting the brutal Israeli attack.

Al-'Aqayilah, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the Arab ministerial meeting, said that a purposeful and serious pan-Arab dialogue was held among the Arab ministers and heads of delegations. Everyone emphasized that Arab solidarity with fraternal Lebanon should go beyond denunciation and condemnation and take the form of practical steps to materially and morally support Lebanon in facing the aggression.

The minister hoped that this meeting and its impressive results will be the beginning of a new era of Arab solidarity and will open a new chapter in brotherly and cooperative inter-Arab relations that overcomes the past and prevents any future differences that may lead to more fragmentation and keep us from confronting impending dangers.

Al-'Aqayilah said that he delivered Jordan's speech at the ministerial meeting. During his speech, al-'Aqayilah said that the absence of Arab solidarity led to our current status and may lead to a more serious situation if we do not return to the spirit of effective Arab solidarity and consider this pan-Arab meeting the start of true and effective Arab solidarity.

He added that during the meeting, the Arab delegations reaffirmed, once again, that Israeli's continued occupation of southern Lebanon and its refusal to implement UN Resolution 425 is the cause of instability in the region and if there was no occupation there would have been no resistance. He noted that the effectiveness of the urgent contacts made by the ministerial committee, formed at the Arab ministerial meeting, with various influential international functionaries, organizations, and forces contributed to the cessation of the Israeli aggression.

Editorial Criticizes Final Statement

JN0108094593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Emergency Meeting Statement; As If Nothing Happened"]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers ended their emergency meeting in Damascus by issuing a traditional statement that does not go beyond the typical historical Arab statements. Israel ignored the foreign ministers' meeting and dealt with its final statements as if nothing had happened.

This is saddening, because the Arab League held an emergency foreign ministers meeting close to the battlefield of the continuing operation without producing any real result. For sure, the hundreds of thousands of displaced Lebanese are sadder now after hearing the Arab foreign ministers call on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward that tragedy, as if the Arabs themselves are not part of this international community.

We were not at all surprised by the Israeli neglect, or even its disregard for the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting held close to the battlefield of its brutal aggression against Lebanon, especially since we are aware that Israel is aware that the only weapons the Arabs have to confront any enemy are sweet talk and worthless lip service.

It was amazing to see the Arab League Council holding its meeting before Israel accomplished its aggressive objectives in Lebanon especially since we know that all previous Arab meetings were timed to be held once the battles were over, when the conferees could not be drawn into a confrontation for which they do have the means except for trivial diplomatic language and rhetoric that are no more than bubbles in stagnant water.

Since we were aware of the abyss into which the Arab order has plunged over the past three years, we hoped that the Arab League would provide a cover for its member states by remaining silent, not by calling for an emergency ministerial council meeting right next to the battlefield of the ongoing operations, and concluding the meeting, amid the noise of bombs and dust of destroyed houses, with speeches and statements that will not heal

the wounds of a Lebanese shepherd, shelter a displaced family, or stop an Israeli aircraft sortie.

We feel the Arab League committed a careless mistake by calling for an emergency meeting while the aggression was continuing. We also believe that the results of this meeting, which appeared to be timed to coincide with the completion of Israeli's military mission, has increased the Lebanese awareness of the depth of their tragedy, and entrenched the Arabs' feeling of impotence and humiliation. This has also entrenched a clear-cut fact: Arabs will continue to be easy targets for any foreign aggression until they abolish their divisions, unify their ranks, and restore their hoped-for solidarity.

Islamists Issue Statement on Election Law Amendment

Brotherhood To 'Reconsider' Election Stance

JN3107094293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood's information office has issued a press statement concerning reports about amendment to the elections law.

The statement stressed that the repeated announcements about the government's intention to amend the current elections law, and especially to approve the principle of one-man, one-vote, ignoring the House of Representatives as a legislative and constitutional power that represents the citizens, will cause confusion and instability, as well as disappointment among citizens.

The Muslim Brotherhood announces, therefore, that it will be obliged to reconsider its stand toward the forthcoming elections, and will coordinate its position with all the various political forces that adopt a similar viewpoint.

Government Views Brotherhood 'Threat'

JN0108110293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 93 pp 1,10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The government Saturday strongly reacted to a threat by the Muslim Brotherhood to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections if the Election Law is changed without the approval of the Lower House of Parliament saying it is unfazed by the threats and "will not be pushed around."

"They (the Brotherhood) are free to take the decision that they want. But nobody can push this government around (and) it is going to govern according to the Constitution," Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar told the Jordan Times in response to the Brotherhood's warning.

In a statement issued Friday, the Brotherhood warned it would "change its position on the elections" if the government amended the law.

"We will seriously consider boycotting the elections if the government changes the Election Law outside the Lower House of Parliament and introduces the one-man-one-vote formula," Brotherhood deputy and hawkish Islamic Action Front (IAF) member Hammam Sa'id said Saturday.

The Brotherhood, which feels targeted by what it sees as an imminent government decision to change the Election Law also warned that amending the law without the approval of the legislature would cause "a big stir in society (and) create a state of instability and frustration."

Though the Brotherhood agrees with the government that there are "loopholes" in the law, it differs with it on the mechanism of the change and the amendments that should be made.

It insists that the Lower House is the only authority constitutionally empowered to amend the law and is especially opposed to introducing the one-person-one-vote formula.

Dr. Sa'id claimed that "it is the Americans who are pushing for the one-man-one-vote system," which observers believe would work against the Brotherhood.

Along with other political groups in the country, the Brotherhood, which will contest the coming elections on the IAF ticket, also criticises the government for its "confusing policy" on the elections.

"The government's position is not right, (it is) unacceptable. It has to take a firm and clear stand on the matter," said Dr. Sa'id.

A highly-informed political observer joined the Brotherhood in criticising the government for what he called the lack of clarity on its election policy as well as the delay in taking a decision. "There is a sense of frustration about the lack of clarity on the elections," said the observer, who asked not to be named.

He said people are frustrated with the delay in announcing the government decision on the election and on the possible mechanism for change which "could jeopardise democracy." Parliamentary candidates are also not able to formulate and start their election campaigns because of the uncertainty about the law that will govern the ballots, he said.

While His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali have repeatedly said that no changes on the law would be made without thorough consultations with all concerned parties, the Brotherhood and at least other 14 political parties insist that changes should only be affected through the House.

In a letter sent to Dr. al-Majali by 15 political groups Tuesday, the country's major political parties urged the "reconsideration" of the Election Law through the House.

They agreed with Dr. al-Majali that there are "loopholes" in the legislation and proposed "fundamental" changes to it but opponents of a unilateral government action on the law among the signatories argued that no time was left to introduce the changes before elections are held later in November.

The highly-informed political observer said that the Cabinet of Dr. al-Majali should make use of the consensus on the need for the change by opening a dialogue with political groups in the country.

He said the government should follow the "inclusion" policies of its predecessors and consider the views of the political groupings in the country.

"Times have changed," said the observer. "Political parties are now part of the political life and if you want to rule you have to convince people."

He said antagonising political groupings at this time, a possible consequence of a unilateral government action on the Election Law, will only jeopardise what he called the fragile democratic process in the country.

The government, however, says it is ruling according to the Constitution.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar rejected accusations that the government was confusing the people with its policies arguing that its policies were clear and credible.

He also said that the government was not being late in taking a decision on the elections as "there is enough time to prepare for them until they are held in November."

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that the Cabinet had not yet discussed the Election Law or decided whether there would be a change in the law or not.

Dr. al-Majali last week gave the strongest indication yet that the law would be changed, saying that there are many loopholes in the legislation but Dr. Abu-Nuwar said the prime minister was giving his personal opinion on the issue.

He said a decision to change the law or not will be taken after hearing out the views of all concerned and will be presented to the Cabinet for disussion.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar, however, would not confirm if the mechanism for changing the law would be similar to the one through which the National Charter was adopted in 1989 as King Husayn and Dr. al- Majali said earlier. Dr. Abu Nuwar said only that the King would consult with all shades of the political spectrum of the country. But "the dialogue taking place in the press is not the right forum for debating the law," according to Dr. Sa'id.

"I am not aware of any formal dialogue on the subject, unless one is taking place behind closed doors," he said in direct criticism of the government.

"We are taking note of the criticism and the praise that the government is receiving and an opinion is beind made, said Dr. Abu- Nuwar. "But we do not accept threats through these political acrobatics."

State Minister on Economy, Elections, Other Issues

JN3007070093 Amman tHE STAR in English 29 Jul-4 Aug 93 p 3

["Excerpts" of an interview with Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, by Usamah al-Sharif, chief editor, "last week"; place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] You still refuse to be described as a transitional Government?

[Al-'Anani] Because transitional has a very specific meaning and that means you have come between governments and that the resigning government has left under a crisis. This is not the case we consider ourselves as a continuation of the p.evious Government. There might be a reshuffle, but tha; doesn't mean the Government will change...people think it is transitional because it has been customary for a new government to be formed after elections. And that is not always the case—there are exceptions....

[Al-Sharif] As an insider, what is the internal agenda of this Government?

[Al-'Anani] Locally, we have to continue with the economic restructuring and economic adjustment programs. We will have to put an economic plan for the country in the next five years...then we should address the main issues of poverty and unemployment. We believe that the budget should reflect local government formulation and then decentralization in the sense that all decisions should not be purely centralized. We also believe the Government should address the issue of agriculture and water. These are very important issues. I don't know how we are going to do it, but at least we will put the proper setting to resolve these problems. We will have to address the ailing companies and ailing institutions, and last but not least to continue to push ahead with administrative reform.

[Al-Sharif] But aren't you setting too higher goals for yourselves?

[Al-'Anani] No, we need to do all these things at the same time, but that doesn't mean we'll finish them at the same time. After all there are 27 ministers, it doesn't mean that one single person will take charge of all these things.

[Al-Sharif] What about your external agenda?

[Al-'Anani] Most important is to continue with the peace process, improve our relations with all Arab countries

particularly the Gulf states, especially those who are willing to reciprocate. Moreover we have to project the image of Jordan abroad as a terra media, as center of rationality and also we have to promote Jordan as an economic regional center.

[Al-Sharif] How serious are you about Arab reconciliation? And how do you plan to do it?

[Al-'Anani] We are making contacts with some Gulf states and I think they have been paying off. I think our relations with Oman are very good. There are signs with Qatar and Bahrain. I am sure we will see more contacts in the future. However with Saudi Arabia, there are shy signals so far, but we think Saudi Arabia is very important for us and we are very important to them.

[Al-Sharif] And what about Kuwait?

[Al-'Anani] It is very strange that we're talking about normalization with Israel, but we're not talking about normalizing with Kuwait. I believe there are certain persons in Kuwait, I name 'Abdallah Bisharah to be specific, (who) adopted...the mission of not (to achieve) reconciliation with both Jordan and the Palestinians, but I am sure there are other good people in Kuwait who think that eventually Kuwait is an Arab country and they don't want see it in the future surounded between a hostile Iran and Iraq.

[Al-Sharif] Some people misunderstood reconciliation to mean distancing ourselves from Iraq, that it will happen at the expense of Iraq...

[Al-'Anani] No never, I am sure that the Iraqis are intelligent enough to know that if our relations are improved with (the) Gulf states, then they will have another asset to help their relations be mended with Gulf states. We are talking not only about Iraq, we are talking about the Iraqi people, 18 million Iraqis who are very important asset for the Arab world. Therefore, were talking about mending fences with all Arab countries and we don't see it as a zero sum game.

[Al-Sharif] When are you going to set a date for the elections?

[Al-'Anani] Well, there are Constitutional regulations, and there are time-tables to be observed.... The decision to hold elections has been taken. When you need to set a date you can do it 45 days before. Of course we have our own calendar, but we think that we should study matters. There is so much debate about whether to amend the election law. Obviously you can't meet the two targets of amending the law and holding the elections on their time. Since there is a Royal Decree to set the elections on their Constitutional date by the end of this year, then I am sure that amending the law through Parliament can't be done, you can't meet the two objectives, so now the question is, are you going to amend the law or you are going to keep the current law as it is, this is what we are studying right now. We will make our decision 45 days before elections, to give every body time to weigh their chances and opportunities.

[Al-Sharif] Is the Government aware that this issue has created waves in the political scene; in Parliament and in the street, do you think that this uproar is exaggerated or that it is warranted?

[Al-'Anani] Let us call a spade a spade here. Everybody is not viewing the elections in general terms, everybody is viewing the elections from their own point of view. Here you have personal interest at stake and people are worried about that...

[Al-Sharif] Whatever the Government decides, will it be received popularly?

[Al-'Anani] I don't think the Government should worry too much about popularity, it should worry about what is right and what is wrong, for the good of the country. Nobody else should do that except the Government at this stage.

[Al-Sharif] But His Majesty promised that such an issue, because of its sensitivity, will be adopted through a national debate similar to what happened with the National Charter. That debate is not taking place...

[Al-'Anani] That debate is taking place but not in a seminar, that is why we are very happy that such a debate will take place because that will educate the Government on where different people stand on the issue....

[Al-Sharif] But is the Government involved in such a debate?

[Al-'Anani] No.

[Al-Sharif] You are not talking to the political parties, you are not talking to Parliament?

[Al-'Anani] We were talking to different people, of course the Prime Minister is continuously meeting with the representatives of the parties, of NGOs [nongovernment organizations] and so on, and we are listening to their opinion, and finally we have to study where things are from the Constitutional and legal points view, and when we know the alternative legal scenarios, then we have to pick up the one on which most people agree....

[Al-Sharif] How influential do you think the political parties will be in the coming elections? Are you happy with the way our political parties have been developing and presenting themselves on the local scene?

[Al-'Anani] It is not question whether we are happy or not. Of course we would like to see more maturity take place in the political system. We view this as a process and it must go through its own stages until it reaches its own maturity over time. There are going to be exaggerations, there are going to be emotional exultations. We see this in the tabloid media, the new press, everybody is trying to find a geographical space to fit in. Obviously

the Government is a common target, and therefore, we take that as objectively as possible.

Al-Sharif] Too objectively you think, that you're not even defending yourselves....

[Al-'Anani] Why should we defend ourselves? I think if I subject most of the things that are mentioned in the papers to scientific standards, they will not stand the test. I think we should not overreact, our overreaction would somehow arouse fears of apprehensions that we are not taking the issue of democracy very seriously. We think that this is a period of high emotional pitching and we should not take this very seriously. Not all parties would agree on different issues, some people will take sides with the Government, some will not.

[Al-Sharif] You are an economist before you are a politician, don't you agree that this Government will have a tough time planning for the 1994 budget because of the economic challenges that lie ahead?

[Al-'Anani] I am not a politician; I am an economist. Of course the situation is tough but not as tough as it was in 1989. Thanks to the efforts of the previous Government, we have really sailed through. Therefore it is tough but not impossible.

[Al-Sharif] But there are still some difficult decisions to make?

[Al-'Anani] I think so. I think whatever the Government does is going to affect people's life, I think this country must rationalize its economic spending, must rationalize its pricing policies, and must also find a way for the most optimal allocation of resources. This society must learn also that there is competition, that we should allow competition to take its full course without jeopardizing the weaker people rights and so on. Eventually, we have to invest in the human being, but the system overall must be a competitive one, we cannot continue as a welfare state, we cannot continue to dish out donations. It is much better to help people find a living....

[Al-Sharif] But you have to involve the private sector, and I think the private sector is not being involved because its money is stashed in banks...

[Al-'Anani] To be honest with you, I think that the private sector must also earn its place. Unfortunately, I don't think that the establishments of the private sector have been doing their job. Of course, individual people in the private sector have been doing miracles and we fully appreciate their efforts....

[Al-Sharif] But the private sector says the Government is their main competitor....

[Al-'Anani] You mean privatization? I agree that governments had been dated in doing privatization, but remember also that there were reservations against certain privatization from the private sector itself. There are also those in the private sector, who are opposed to this because they have been enjoying financial reward by doing contracts...the contractors, people we supply the Government with goods...why should they want this position to change now and let new competitors come in and share the cake with them? So it is not as easy as one thinks, but I am sure we can do better, I agree with that.

[Al-Sharif] Recently Jordan has been successful in negotiating the deferment of payment on debts, rescheduling for longer periods...how good are these agreements for us?

[Al-'Anani] The last agreement with London Club meant that we saved in our total debt, and it is much easier to pay debt over a period of 30 years with low interest rates rather than pay them in five or six years with a very high interest rate. If I can transfer some of my commercial loans into soft loans that is an achievement in itself. At the end of 1989 our total foreign debt was in the (region) of $8.3 billion, now the real value of our total foreign debt is between $6.2 to $6.3 billion. I think to have repaid two billion and alleviated the annual debt repayment burden to a manageable amount is good.

[Al-Sharif] Moving to the peace process, which was your speciality for a while, how far have we reached in real negotiations? What have we achieved? And how far do we have to go?

[Al-'Anani] This is the 64,000 dollar question that I would like to have good answer to, I really don't know. But I think we have gone very far, on three different tracks. We look at the Syrian track, the Isrealis are talking about withdrawal from all of the Golan, or from the Syrian Golan, and that is not bad, in exchange for their withdrawal they want their security concerns to be taken into account. So now we are talking about an agenda, the same thing applies to the Lebanese on their track. On the Jordanian track it is a different story, some people try to underestimate the Jordanian agenda concerns because they think that it is only a small piece of land that is occupied by Israel and the issue of water can easily be resolved, so what problems do we have with Israel? No, this is a partial and a very unjust look at the Jordanian track problem. There are many issues that we are involved in and also very complicated in nature. Jordan can't alienate itself from the religious and historical aspects of Jerusalem, it can't be the sole responsibility of the Palestinians, or the issue of refugees which is a very complicated issue. You know in Jordan there are 1.7 or 1.8 million refugees or displaced persons and they constitute about 40 percent of the Jordanian population.

Those people have aspirations and we can't ignore their aspirations. There are many Palestinian issues that can't be resolved unless the Jordanians and the Palestinians come to agreement on what kind of resolutions they should take down the road.

[Al-Sharif] So what will happen when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher comes to the region in August? What do you expect him to say, and what do you expect to say to him?

[Al-'Anani] I don't know what he is going to say exactly, but I can make an informed guess....I believe he is going to focus on two main issues: one is that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the transitional period have now set the tone for the total Arab- Israeli negotiations, and he knows that and unless he breaks the deadlock, then it is very difficult to see how the whole process can be salvaged...he probably wants to solicit Jordan's help. Secondly, I believe he is going to focus on (the) Syrian-Israeli track because he thinks there is a possibility of success there and if you break the deadlock over the Syrian-Israeli negotiations then that would pave the way for progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

[Al-Sharif] Have you decided when you will be going to the 11th round? Do you have any conditions?

[Al-'Anani] It is too early to say. This decision will have to be taken by the Arab foreign ministers who are going to meet in Beirut, and also it will depend on what happens particularly on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

[Al-Sharif] The most difficult issue now between the Israelis and the Palestinians is Jerusalem. Warren Christopher in his press conference tried to avoid the issue of American policy on the occupation of East Jerusalem by Israel....

[Al-'Anani] To be honest with you I don't think that his position was fair. I don't think it was symmetrical, when you say that I can't make any comment on the current Israeli actions in Jerusalem and the claims by Israel to have annexed Jerusalem and expanded its territorial limits and to say that this is a very sensitive issue and it must be postponed for the final status agreement, I don't think this is a fair position.... We have to know whether the Americans endorse or accept Israeli annexation of Jerusalem or not. The official American position doesn't recognize that he didn't reconfirm it, and I think he should have reconfirmed it.

[Al-Sharif] So peace is not around the corner? We have to wait.

[Al-'Anani] In the absence of any other viable alternatives, yes we have to give peace its full chance.

[Al-Sharif] The setting up of the six working committees between Palestinians and Jordanians. Is it the first step towards confederation?

[Al-'Anani] This issue has been taken both as a tactical and as a strategic concern by the Palestinians. Tactically they might want to allay the fears of Israel that they are not interested in everlasting Palestinian state as such, that they are willing to enter into partnership with Jordan, because the Israeli always express the fear that if you allow a Palestinian independent state then down the road that state will claim the rest of Palestine, which is now Israel, and therefore they want to make sure that history does not lead to that point.

Now the Palestinians have acknowledged 242 which means they have accepted the existence of Israel...the Isrealis want to make sure that this is not going to change over time. So the Israelis say OK let us see Palestine as a part of other new political structure with Jordan. The question, if that leads to the restoration of all Arab occupied territories and we end up with what you might call an Arab independent Palestine, then Jordan will be in a position to think of confederation if the two peoples, in Palestine and in Jordan think that this is the optimal path for them to take. So what Jordan is saying is that it is not mature to talk about confederation before the land is restored, and before the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Israelis don't accept Jordan's conditions for confederation, they want to reap the fruit of confederation under the assumption that they can maintain some of the de facto privileges that they have created for themselves. Jordan cannot accept that. We have to listen to what the Palestinians have to say on this particular issue very carefully. I don't think that our opinions are that far apart, it is just a difference of opinion at this stage. Jordan is not in a hurry, we are a little bit uneasy about too much talk that has been taking place about the confederation. We think we should concentrate on the peace process.

[Al-Sharif] So what do you think of Hanan 'Ashrawi's call for finding new bold alternatives for the peace process?

[Al-'Anani] This is a good statement...I think the Palestinians have already taken many bold decisions compared to what they started with in 1964 and what we're seeing right now. They have come a long way. They've already taken the risk and the same applies to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. We in Jordan are proud to have our own vision of peace, and so do the Palestinians, I don't think the Israelis have a vision of peace.

[Al-Sharif] So these latest revelations about possible direct PLO-Israeli contacts, are also part of the side attractions?

[Al-'Anani] No, the Palestinians attach high political symbolism to that, if you acknowledge 242, you acknowledge the PLO, and when you begin to talk to the PLO directly that means you have talked to the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people...

A soon as we have reached transitional agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, who is going to sign that agreement and in what capacity? The current delegation...they have the legitimacy or the backing of the PLO, but without the PLO they don't represent legal entity that will be responsible for a signature in the future, so the PLO must be the co-signer. They have to be involved eventually.

Russian Envoy, Delegation Arrive in Amman for Talks

JN3007203293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian leadership's special envoy and director general of the Middle East and

North Africa Desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and his accompanying delegation have arrived in Amman via al-Ramtha border post on a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, they will meet with several Jordanian officials.

On arriving at al-Ramtha border post, Posuvalyuk said his visit to Jordan is part of a regional tour. He noted that he will discuss with Jordanian officials relations between the two friendly countries and the peace process. He said the regional situation is witnessing dramatic developments, which prompt consultations with the states in this region, particularly Jordan.

Prime Minister, Posuvalyuk Confer

JN3107143393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian leadership's special envoy and director general of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry, this morning met at the Prime Ministry to review bilateral relations and the situation in the region, particularly the current developments in southern Lebanon.

Dr. al-Majali stressed that Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon is the cause of tension and instability in that area. The prime minister criticized Israel's call to empty the southern Lebanese area of its inhabitants by dispersing them. He warned against the negative consequences and the threat the Israeli aggression poses to the Middle East peace process.

The prime minister and the Russian envoy discussed the peace process in the Middle East. The two sides stressed their eagerness to push it ahead and work to remove the obstacles that stand in its way.

The Russian envoy said his country lists the Middle East and the peace process as one of its top priorities.

Posuvalyuk, al-Majali Discuss Lebanon bat[Amman Radio]

JN3107182993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian leadership's special envoy and director general of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry, met at the Prime Ministry this morning to review bilateral relations, and the situation in the region, particularly current developments in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Russian envoy said his country lists the Middle East and the peace process as one of its top priorities. In statements to reporters, he said his country, in its capacity as one of the two basic cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, is extremely interested in promoting this process, because Russia is close to this region and is affected by developments in it.

The Russian envoy pointed out that his country is constantly contacting and holding consultations with the U.S. cosponsor in this regard. He reiterated his country's demand that Israel should immediately halt its military operations in southern Lebanon. He said the magnitude of these operations is out of proportion to the Israeli claims about the attacks launched by the Lebanese resistance.

The Russian envoy added that the southern Lebanese events threaten regional stability and the peace process. He also asserted that his country firmly supports the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the Russian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Envoy Departs Amman for Tunis

JN0108121093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian Envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk has expressed his country's appreciation of the wise policy chartered by Jordan under the leadership of his Majesty King Husayn, aimed at consolidating the pillars of peace and stability in the region.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, the Russian envoy said that his country pays special attention to its political relations with Jordan, which is one of major and important parties to the Middle East peace process. He said Moscow highly values Jordan's efforts and contributions in this connection.

Asked about his talks with Jordanian officials in Amman, the Russian envoy said that he held lengthy talks with the Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani on a number of issues of joint interest to the two countries, as well as bilateral relations.

The Russian envoy said that what we have heard in Amman has reinforced a conviction, as a Russian cosponsor of the Middle East peace conference, that such contacts and exchanges of views are of extreme importance in understanding the dimensions of the events currently taking place in the region.

Mr. Posuvalyuk paid tribute to the good relations existing between Jordan and Russia, adding that there are available opportunities for developing these relations in the various domains, particularly the economic domain, and regional and international issues.

The Russian envoy who left Amman today for Tunis at the end of his visit to Jordan, said that he will convey a message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressing his country's denunciation of the Israeli

storming of south Lebanon, adding that his country has repeatedly called on Israel to immediately halt such acts of aggression.

King Husayn Receives Thank-You Cable From Saudi King

JN0208065293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has received a thank-you cable from His Majesty Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in reply to a cable His Majesty King Husayn had sent to him and in which he extended condolences on the death of Prince Sa'd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, brother of King Fahd. [passage omitted]

UN's Ganev Departs Amman for Occupied Territories

JN3007120393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] UN General Assembly [UNGA] President Stoyan Ganev left Amman today for the occupied Arab territories following a four-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent.

Ganev also met with a number of Jordanian businessmen, industrialists, and economists, and gave a lecture at the International Affairs Society in Amman about the UN role in the new world order.

Prime Minister Returns to Beirut From Damascus 31 Jul

Receives 'Several' Calls From Christopher

NC3107173093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned today to Beirut from Damascus, where he led the Lebanese delegation to the emergency session of the Arab League Council. While in Damascus, al-Hariri held consultations with Arab officials. Yesterday and today, al-Hariri received several telephone calls from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, during which the two officials discussed the situation in the south.

Buwayz Returns; Comments on Strategy

NC3107174893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut this evening. In a statement he made before leaving the Syrian capital, he said that he discussed with senior Syrian officials the recent developments in Lebanon and the results of the Israeli attacks. He said he also discussed establishing coordination policies to safeguard Lebanon's interests in the face of Israeli aggressive actions.

Al-Hariri Says 'All Parties' Involved in Cease-Fire

NC0108112293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said today all parties participated in the effort to achieve a cease-fire. He said that a cease-fire exists and that the people have begun to return to their homes. He noted that rebuilding from the destruction is the problem we face now.

Al-Hariri said Lebanon will tell U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher two things during his tour: First, Israel's actions will not achieve political results. All it has done is to destroy property and to force hundreds of thousands of Lebanese out of their homes. Second, solving the problem begins with implementing Security Council Resolution 425 and with Israel totally withdrawing from Lebanese territory.

Says Government 'Cannot' Fight Hizballah

NC0108084093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, in an interview with the BBC today, said the Israeli aggression destroyed south Lebanon but hit no more than eight Hizballah members. He said we cannot fight those who fight Israel, because they resist the Israeli occupation. We cannot fight them for national reasons.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Lebanon began the reconstruction process when you assumed the post of prime minister. Lebanon has also entered a peace process. Does this not require you to stop all Hizballah and Lebanese national resistance activities in south Lebanon in order to finish the reconstruction?

[Al-Hariri] The issue is not the resistance, but the Israeli occupation.

[Correspondent] But don't you see that these activities give Israel the pretexts it needs to launch military operations as it did all last week?

[Al-Hariri] Israel launched military operations last week before any operation was carried out against the Galilee. Israel made a decision on this and it struck at and destroyed the south on the pretext of attempting to destroy Hizballah. Israel destroyed the south, but hit no more than eight Hizballah members.

[Correspondent] Do we gather form what you say that you do not intend to disarm the Islamic Resistance in the south?

[Al-Hariri] This resistance is against Israel, which occupies part of Lebanese territory. The issue involves an Israeli pledge to withdraw form the south. Should Israel do that, neither Hizballah nor any party will have any justification to carry arms. For domestic and national reasons, we cannot fight those who fight Israel before Israel withdraws. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Delivers Army Day Message, Discusses South

NC3107181693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Lebanese Army Day—recorded]

[Excerpt] O military men: On the 50th anniversary of our national independence [22 November 1993], instead of holding a military parade, you will go to the south to decorate it with the sword of loyalty and dignity as you have raised the sword of law and order elsewhere in the homeland. With your unity, which stems from the accord of your noble people, the march of security and peace has triumphed over the ordeal and its dangers. With your courage, which is a permanent feature of your establishment, the return of the refugees to their lands and villages has succeeded. The Lebanese desire for coexistence means the desire for a stable and safe life together. With your efficiency, which is evident in your undertaking of the tasks assigned to you by the state, you have renewed the confidence in this homeland and in its ability to confront the most violent storms. Helping us to provide our army with the necessary equipment is the practical way to safeguard our national independence and security. Greetings to your martyrs—martyrs of the homeland, honor, sacrifice, and loyalty. Greetings to you as heroes, defending, alongside our other security forces and their establishments, the citizens' right to live a free and dignified life under the aegis of the state and the hope for a better future.

O Lebanese: We have joined the negotiations to restore our rights, adhering to the collective Arab willpower and responding to the international effort for a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace. Respect for our sovereignty is the starting point and is the guarantee for achieving peace. The attacks on our people; the destruction of their houses; their mass displacement; the daily violations of our border, air space, and territorial waters; and the continued occupation of parts of our territory will not make us lose our willpower or force us to depart from the unified Arab stance.

Lebanon has suffered—beyond its capacity—from displacement and destruction for over 16 years. Why should our country continue to suffer at a time when we are looking to brothers and friends to support our march to rebuild our country's infrastructure and desired international role?

We announce to the whole world that we reject the destruction of our villages in front of world conscience and international legitimacy. We reject the undermining of our independence and national unity. We reject the continuation of others' wars on our land without any moral, logical, or legal deterrence. Lebanon is not a free-for-all arena for settling accounts. It is a homeland. There is a state in Lebanon. Any infringement on the state's sovereignty and the on Lebanese collective willpower is an attack on the march of national detente, which the whole world is supporting. It is an attack on our firmly established and internationally recognized statehood. It is an attack on all international norms, charters, and laws.

Lebanon is not alone. Lebanon has a place in the world which is stronger than any weapon. Violence does not abolish justice. It is about time that Israel was convinced that its arbitrary measures will not provide it with security and that there could be no security with the shadow of occupation. Security is provided by the implementation of UN resolutions, above all resolution 425. Let them implement the resolution and we will guarantee security there.

All Lebanese are aware of Israel's designs and will not fall prey to its ambitions. With our strong unity and as we rally to the state, we will succeed in safeguarding our land, homeland, and dignity. Let Israel stop its maneuvers and aggressive actions if it wants peace. Our land is our history. We do not abandon our history. No one can sequester our future. We do not weep over our martyrs or the fires that have swept away our people and their life's savings. Our will for survival is stronger.

We will rebuild our villages in the south, western al-Biqa', and on every inch of our land. All Lebanon will enjoy dignity and prosperity. They destroy and we build. Our brothers and friends must help us redress the wounds of our disaster-stricken people. They have suffered enough. It is their right to live in dignity.

The destruction of the south and western al-Biqa' is a destruction of Arab willpower and dignity. The Arabs' survival depends on Lebanon's survival and Lebanon's survival is the prelude to the establishment of peace. We reject any attempt to let Lebanon pay the price of peace as it has paid the price of imposed wars. [passage omitted]

Army Commander Addresses Soldiers on Events in South

NC0108182393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Order of the day delivered by Lebanese Army Commander General Emile Lahhud to the military on the occasion of Army Day on 1 August—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Soldiers: The order of the day, 1 August 1993, begins from the south, where you are firmly and with determination facing an enemy superior to you in men and equipment but where you are superior to him because right and faith are on your side. Your right is that the land is yours and your faith is that the return of the land and of your kinsfolk is a duty and a mission.

Soldiers: In the south there is an occupied land. The state is demanding the return of this land and the implementation of UN resolutions concerning it to ensure just peace and restore our right and security. [passage omitted]

Soldiers: The recent Israeli aggressive action was designed to displace the largest possible number of people in order to disrupt the internal situation and hamper the process of security and national reconciliation. Their purpose is also to cause division among the citizens by showing that some of them are the cause for the plight of others, irrespective of the fact that occupation is the cause of the major tragedies in the south and in the entire country.

Soldiers: We have already said that the strife started from the south and it will not end except from the south with the return of the legitimate authorities up to the internationally recognized borders. The orders issued to you to defend the south and to consolidate the security in the country were designed to ensure at least victory over strife, even if victory over the enemy is not possible. [passage omitted]

Soldiers: You have spread hope among your people that the state is strong if intentions are pure and that Lebanon will survive whatever the circumstances may be. May you live long, may the Army live long, and long live Lebanon.

Cabinet Decides To Deploy Army in UNIFIL Area

NC0108200993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah following an extraordinary Council of Ministers meeting in Beirut on 1 August—recorded]

[Text] The Council of Ministers has decided to increase the authority and raise the level of representation of the Higher Relief Committee. The committee will include the following: Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, chairman; Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, deputy chairman; Health Minister Marwan Hamadah; National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul; Ilyas Hubayqah, minister of social affairs and water and electricity resources; Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, minister of housing and cooperatives; Public Works Minister Bassam Murtada; and Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs. The committee will receive the assistance of the director general of social affairs, director general of the South Council, chairman of the Displaced People's Fund, a representative of the Lebanese Army Command, a representative of the Internal Security Forces Command, and any other suitable person.

The prime minister then reviewed the contacts that preceded the cease-fire decision. The foreign minister reported the details of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting and the contacts that were made during the conference.

The Council of Ministers then decided to deploy the Lebanese Army in the operations area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. The Council formed a committee made up of the prime minister, who was named chairman, and the foreign minister and defense minister to make the necessary contacts for this purpose.

Discusses Losses, Reconstruction Plan

NC0208063193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 93

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after the 1 August Cabinet meeting—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samhah] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening to assess all aspects of the situation in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' after the cease-fire that followed a week of Israeli attacks.

At the outset of the session, the president addressed greetings of pride and appreciation to the Lebanese Army and its martyrs on the occasion of the Army Day anniversary on 1 August, which coincides with Lebanon's steadfastness on the aggression.

President al-Hirawi pointed to the ongoing efforts to deploy the Army in the operations area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. This is a Lebanese constant and a continuing demand that would help to stabilize the situation and restore confidence to the region's citizens.

The president voiced complete satisfaction with the internal cohesion and the unity between the official and popular positions, which represented an impregnable barrier in facing Israel, despite the viciousness and bestiality of the aggression.

The president praised the bravery the southerners exhibited in their return to their villages and towns. He then reviewed the encouraging information received from the official quarters on the issue of the return.

After conducting an in-depth discussion of the massive human catastrophe in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' and the huge task that will be shouldered by the state to reconstruct the devastated areas and strengthen steadfastness, the Cabinet decided to reestablish the Higher Relief Committee. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] I briefed the Cabinet on the visits my colleagues and I have made to the south today and in recent days. The Cabinet decided to call the Higher Defense Council to a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1000 tomorrow.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] There is a cease-fire. We do not want to discuss this issue further. But the issue of katyushas, as pointed out by the president, the prime minister, and the ministers, cannot be accepted as state policy. We will not accept katyushas being fired from Lebanese territory as state policy.

[Correspondent] In his news conference, the Chamber speaker urged the Cabinet to adopt a decision entrusting the Lebanese Army to distribute aid and ensure social care for the returning southerners. Did you discuss this issue?

[Samahah] This is not one of the tasks with which the Lebanese Army could be entrusted. This and other issues regarding the Lebanese Army's tasks will be discussed in detail by the Higher Defense Council tomorrow.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] The prime minister said yesterday there is no written commitment by the Lebanese Government. I have no further comment.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] As I said before, a committee made up of the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers has been formed to hold the necessary contacts. [passage indistinct]

The prime minister said yesterday that the Arab League Ministerial Council made a decision that a meeting will soon be held between the Arab League secretary general and the prime minister. After the meeting, the two will undertake an Arab tour to ensure that these sums will be paid to Lebanon. Let's hope for the best.

But I would like to talk about the size of the losses and the tragedies inflicted over the past week. I would also like to discuss the devastation caused to the Lebanese people and their property and land in the south and

western al-Biqa'. During the week, the number of displaced people exceeded 300,000. The number of dead is 128, including a Lebanese soldier, eight members of the resistance, and 119 civilians, including children, women, elderly, and young people. Some 470 people—children, women, and elderly—were wounded during the aggression, which destroyed 10,000 houses; between 19,000 and 20,000 houses received direct hits. This is in addition to the damage caused to government buildings, schools, hospitals, and official and private vehicles, including those of the Red Cross and ambulances.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] The Cabinet supports the immediate return of every citizen to his land and home. The Relief Committee and the Army will try to ensure houses, security, and other necessities to every citizen.

Higher Defense Council Meets on Situation in South

NC0208084893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The Higher Defense Council opened a meeting under President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1015 today. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Ministers Muhsin Dallul, Faris Buwayz, Hagop Demerdjian, and Fu'ad Sinyurah are attending the meeting. The meeting is also being attended by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud and Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd, Higher Defense Council secretary general.

The delegates will discuss the new developments in the south in light of the decision to deploy the Army in the operations area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Lebanon was notified yesterday that the United Nations approved the decision.

Issues Statement

NC0208094793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0905 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Statement issued by the Higher Defense Council; read by its secretary general, Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd, on 2 August—recorded]

[Text] The Higher Defense Council held a meeting chaired by his excellency the president. The prime minister and member ministers attended. The delegates discussed extending the Army's area of operations in the south and western al-Biqa'.

The council asked the defense minister to keep the Army ready to deploy in the area of operations of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. It called for meticulously implementing the Army's tasks, as specified in the minutes of Cabinet session No. 7, 1 February 1991.

The council also decided to revoke all existing arms licenses. New regulations will be introduced for issuing such licenses in cases of extreme emergency. Applications for such licenses should be presented to the national Defense Ministry. The applications should be approved by the prime minister, who is also the deputy chairman of the Higher Defense Council.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Halt To Katyusha Attacks

NC3107192093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Concerning recent developments and efforts which have been made during the past few hours, Hizballah has issued the following statement:

In light of its stances and principles, which it defined several years ago and which are based on our belief in our right to defend our people and land with all available means; in light of our clarification that the katyusha rockets have only been used to answer the treacherous Zionist aggressive actions against our people and villages—a matter that the enemy himself has admitted—Hizballah Secretary General his eminence Hasan Nasrallah made the statement yesterday that the shelling of the settlements would stop when the Zionist aggressive actions against our people and land stops. This is the stance we present to our people and to local and world public opinion. This stance reflects our adherence to our right to continue to resist the occupation forces until they are evacuated from all our land.

The Hizballah statement: We are wish to stress that the Zionist enemy is trying to circulate the rumor that the cease-fire was achieved with agreements and provisions which affect the resistance's actions and role. The enemy wants to justify and to cover up its failure to achieve the declared objectives of its aggressive operations. These allegations are baseless. The resistance, which is a national and legitimate right, is not and will not be a subject of bargaining. During one week of the Zionist aggressive actions, the importance of the resistance and its role in defending the people and sovereignty and aborting the enemy's aims has been emphasized.

Denies Pressure From Syria

JN0108075393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to Radio Monte Carlo last night, Hajj Husayn Khalil, chairman of the Hizballah Political Bureau said: No agreements or talks were held with any party to stop the fighting. The Syrians neither pressured us nor asked us for anything. On the contrary, we and the Syrians have identical views vis-a-vis all matters related to Israel and the liberation of Lebanese territory. The Iranians reiterated their political and moral support for national resistance in Lebanon. This was the objective of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Damascus.

Answering a question, Hajj Husayn said: The firing of katyusha missiles was never our policy. We used katyushas to retaliate against aggression. When Israel abated its bombardment, we abated the firing of katyushas; and when it stopped its aggression, we also stopped firing katyushas.

The chairman of the Hizballah Political Bureau said: The enemy does not attack the resistance; it attacks civilians and villages. We cannot stand with folded arms. If Israel continues to shell defenseless civilians and villages in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa', and if it continues its aerial and naval attacks, we will be free to decide the time, place, and method to deter this enemy.

Asked if Hizballah will move from the south to al-Biqa', Husayn Khalil said: We are southerners, and we will stay in the south. Nobody in this country can compete with us in our patriotism. Asked about Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz' statement yesterday that any resistance should take into consideration the interests of the Lebanese state, Khalil said: Our resistance stems not only from the interests of the Lebanese state, but from the interests and dignity of the genuine Lebanese people.

Israel 'Failed' To Achieve Anything

NC3107121393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has asserted that the Zionist enemy has failed to achieve any of its objectives and could not destroy Hizballah.

Nasrallah added: Hizballah is now even more convinced of the rightfulness of its policies, options, resistance, and methods. It is now more determined than ever to pursue this path. Our martyrs' blood lays a greater responsibility on our shoulders to maintain this path until the land and sanctities are liberated, God willing.

His eminence declared: Let all Israeli houses be demolished if our houses are demolished. Let all Zionist civilians be killed if civilians of our kin and nation are killed on our land. We must use the method which can deter a murderous, treacherous enemy that is perpetrating the greatest war crime of this age and placing a mark of shame on the record of the United States, which falsely claims to defend human rights.

Nasrallah was speaking during a funeral ceremony in Beirut's Southern Suburb, at which eulogies were delivered in memory of martyr 'Ali Taha.

Resistance Seen As 'Only Choice'

NC0108095393 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 1 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah vowed Sunday [1 August] to keep up its resistance to Israel's occupation of a border strip in south Lebanon, following Israel's seven-day blitz on guerrillas. [passage omitted]

"Hizballah will pursue its acts of resistance against occupation," its leader, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, told the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group's weekly magazine, AL-'AHD.

"Our only choice remains and will remain resistance because if the Zionist enemy succeeds in its objective to liquidate the resistance, it will have succeeded in liquidating Lebanon," he said.

Nasrallah also said his fighters would not be disarmed. "Nobody has asked us or would dare ask us to disarm because they know very well that would mean the end of Lebanon," he said. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah Holds News Conference

NC0108192593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah held a news conference this evening during which he discussed the most important events and stances that accompanied and followed the treacherous Zionist attacks on Lebanon, especially in the south and western al-Biqa'.

Opening the news conference, he read the following statement to journalists: For seven successive days, our people experienced and our land witnessed a treacherous, wide-scale Zionist aggressive action directed against stones, humans, and trees. For seven days, the Zionist military machine attacked our innocent people and their houses in an onslaught that will remain vivid proof of the barbarity and terrorism of the Zionist Jews and that they are enemies of peace and stability. For seven days, international silence provided a cover for the aggressive action until we became convinced that the conspiracy was bigger than just being targeted against the resistance and its weapons. The conspiracy transcended the declared objective to target Lebanon and its territorial unity and stability.

Nasrallah added: The objectives of the Zionist aggressive action were undoubtedly bigger than those declared. Through its wide-scale operations to eradicate the resistance, the enemy also wanted to weaken the Lebanese position by threatening the country's unity and political stability. It also wanted to twist Syria's arm and create fear among the Arabs to extricate the talks from the dead end that the 10th round had reached. The enemy wanted to exert pressure to extract new concessions from the Arabs in the coming round.

During its aggressive action the enemy employed all the resources of its ground, naval, and air forces. It targeted the resistance and its people, concentrating its attacks on everything because it realized that striking the resistance meant striking one of the pillars of a strong front. Through its deliberate displacement of hundreds of

thousands of our people, it sought to weaken Lebanon's stability and confuse the political and security situation by exacerbating the social problem.

Nasrallah asked: What did the enemy achieve from the objectives of its operation? Regarding the resistance, it has continued and emerged stronger, winning wide-scale local, Arab, and Islamic support. The national unity that the enemy tried to weaken became stronger. The Lebanese position became more cohesive. The confrontation and the challenges removed all differences and disagreements. Syria under President al-Asad stood strong to prevent the Zionists from achieving their wicked and aggressive aims. On the Arab level, we witnessed an improvement in the Arab situation expressed by the foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus and the Arab parliamentarians' conference in Beirut. Through its aggressive actions Israel unearthed the substantial sum of hatreds that the Americans were trying to hide.

Nasrallah enumerated the defeats and losses that the enemy has incurred. They include:

1. The resistance, the real enemy of the Zionists, emerged stronger and more determined to adhere to its right, role, and responsibility. It continues to keep open the option of confrontation through all available means.

2. The fateful relationship between Lebanon and Syria, which Israel wanted to undermine, became stronger.

3. The aggressive action has unearthed the true treacherous face of the Zionist barbarism and Israel's enmity to peace. The aggressive action also disclosed the falsehood of the negotiating process and the fact that this process is proceeding aimlessly.

4. The aggressive action contributed toward spreading the state of vigilance and awareness and the enemy's rejection of peace and coexistence with our people and the other Arab and Islamic nations.

5. The aggressive action has uncovered the enemy's weak points, particularly concerning its military power and the fact that this enemy cannot endure human losses. This implies that the resistance experiment and its achievements are important with regard to inflicting losses on the enemy and causing panic in its ranks.

6. The aggressive action has exposed the U.S. role and its collusion with, and complete support for, the Zionist operation. It also has shown that the United States is not qualified to sponsor the peace process.

His eminence Nasrallah added: After halting its aggressive operation, the enemy perhaps was waiting to achieve a sort of victory on either the political or popular level. On the political level, the enemy expected positive points to emerge in his favor during the next round of negotiations. Therefore, we call for obstructing any attempt to make concessions by halting the participation in the negotiations.

Regarding the popular level, the enemy expected that the vast displacement and destruction would spread a chaotic atmosphere in the country. This atmosphere could be [words indistinct] for internal disputes and seditions.

To face the enemy's scheme, the Hizballah secretary general has urged all forces to mobilize their social, political, and information services to confront the effects of displacement and destruction and to handle the problems and sensitivities resulting from them with the same responsibility demonstrated during the confrontation of the aggressive operation.

His eminence Hasan Nasrallah affirmed that confronting the traces of the aggressive operation is as important and serious as confronting the aggressive operation itself. Therefore, we call on everyone to assume his national and historic duties required by the situation.

Referring to our steadfast kinsfolk, those who remained in their houses and villages and those who were forced to leave their homes, the Hizballah secretary general said: We must pay our respect to their endurance vis-a-vis the suffering. He said: We learn from your endurance and sacrifice as well as from the endurance and bravery of the fighter mujahidin. You are the source of pride for the entire nation. We will continue to be with you and we will not have a house when you do not have one of your own.

His eminence Nasrallah declared a state of mobilization and emergency for all services. He called on all establishments to declare a state of alert and to start the process of reconstruction and return [of refugees], the process of clinging to the pure soil of Jabal 'Amil. He thanked the efforts made by our kinsfolk abroad for sharing the pains of their brothers in the south and western al-Biqa'. These efforts were represented in the stances over the past few days through anger and fund-raising campaigns. He urged them to strengthen their efforts.

His eminence praised the wise and brave stances that were expressed by the forces and parties as well as by political and spiritual figures and officials. These stances are commensurate with the degree of the stage and its circumstances and challenges.

The Hizballah secretary general also praised the brave supportive stance of the brothers in the Syrian Arab Republic led by brother President Hafiz al-Asad. We greet the souls of the Syrian Army's martyrs who fell during the confrontation. We also greet the martyrs and wounded of the Lebanese Army. We praise and greet the solid firm stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran represented by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and brother President Hashemi- Rafsanjani. These stances support our people and their legitimate right of resistance.

Islamic Amal Leader Praises Hizballah Resistance

NC0208064293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Speaking at a memorial service in Humin al-Tahta, Islamic Amal leader Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi said: Hizballah, which is armed with faith and closeness to the exalted, has become a party to the confrontation with the Zionist enemy and the powers of global arrogance.

Al-Musawi asserted that Hizballah's heroes are men who face the enemy. He said they do not believe in rocket war, because it is the war of the weak.

Sayyid al-Musawi announced: If Israel does not leave our land, the resistance, backed by our steadfast people, will continue to oppose the enemy. Our war against the enemy is one of creeds. It will continue until the creed of apostasy collapses before the creed of faith. The path of resistance is that of reasonable men. We want to die with dignity and honor while defending this oppressed nation.

Al-Musawi stressed the importance of the official attitude to resistance. He emphasized that all the people are contributing to the confrontation of the criminal Zionist enemy, which is fighting Islam and the Muslims.

Islamic Guard Threatens 'Conspiring' Arab Leaders

NC3107061393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Guard Worldwide [Haras al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyah fi Jami' Anha' al-'Alam] has issued a warning to all those who are tempted to conspire against the Islamic Resistance. The Guard announced: God, may He be praised and exalted, has enjoined us to fight the infidels and hypocrites following the vicious onslaught on our kin in the south, western al-Biqa', and all Lebanon. In light of this onslaught, we have discovered that the Islamic Resistance—the resistance of Hizballah Lebanon—is fighting alone, defending the Islamic nation's dignity and pride and the whole Arab world. We have learned that some Arab leaders are conspiring against the Islamist trend for the good of the United States and Israel. So, we have decided to execute them. The objective of our jihad is not merely victory over Israel to liberate our land, but to uproot all apostasy and corruption worldwide.

Palestinian Groups Ordered To Stop Rocket Attacks

NC3107162993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] AFP has cited Palestinian sources in Sidon who say that three Palestinian groups—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine, and the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis—have received orders from their leaders to stop firing rockets at northern occupied Palestine.

Revolutionary Islamic Army Claims Attack

NC0108160093 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 1 (AFP)—An Islamic Palestinian guerrilla group Sunday [1 August] claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on a post held by Israeli-backed militiamen, the first such attack since a ceasefire Saturday.

The Revolutionary Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine, a hitherto unknown movement, announced in a statement issued here that one of its guerrilla groups had "mounted an attack on Israeli enemy soldiers on the Kunin-Bra'shit road, killing and wounding members of the Israeli unit."

Earlier the South Lebanon Army, the Israeli-backed militia in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, said guerrillas had attacked one of its posts early Sunday but caused no casualties.

There have been no other rocket attacks reported on the "security zone" or on Israel since the Jewish state announced a ceasefire in its attacks on Lebanon from Saturday afternoon.

SLA Outpost Reported Shelled; Soldiers Returns Fire

TA0108163693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] Twenty-four hours after the cease-fire went into effect, the explanations have begun. Syria, Lebanon, Hizballah, and Iran stress that opposition to Israel will continue within the security zone and on Lebanese soil. [passage omitted]

Hizballah is already starting to rehabilitate itself in practice and morally. The Hizballah secretary, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, declared: We are here, nobody has asked us or would dare to ask us, to disarm, and the struggle continues.

This morning, as though to demonstrate that position, terrorists attacked an SLA [South Lebanese Army] outpost near Bra'shit close to the security zone. SLA soldiers returned localized mortar fire, thereby ending the incident. But there is no doubt that sooner or later Hizballah or another organization operating in south Lebanon will want to put the cease-fire understanding to the test, and then if katyushas are launched at Israel how will Israel react and what will Syria do? [passage omitted]

Israel's Rabin Thanks SLA for 'Steadfastness'

NC3107164993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1520 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] On the occasion of the cease-fire agreement, Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has sent a message of thanks to Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The text of the message follows:

Dear Gen. Lahd,

Today, I ordered the Israeli forces to halt the military operations in southern Lebanon conducted within the framework of "Operation Accountability," effective 1800 [1500 GMT] today. I am pleased to take this opportunity to express through you my thanks and appreciation to the residents of the security zone and the SLA soldiers and officers for their steadfastness in the face of the terrorist operations of Hizballah and other terrorist organizations.

I wish to express my personal appreciation to you for your unwavering and wise leadership during the difficult days experienced by the security zone and its inhabitants. I am sure that "Operation Accountability" will result in a cessation of Hizballah operations in the security zone. I am also sure that the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] and the SLA will continue with utmost resolve to defend the residents of the security zone and ensure calm and security on both sides of the border. The IDF will continue to extend full support to you and to your men until the desired peace is achieved.

With utmost appreciation and respect,

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin

Iranian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Spokesman Says Talks 'Fruitful'

LD3007143093 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, July 30, IRNA—A spokesman for Iran's foreign minister termed the ongoing Tehran-Damascus talks as "friendly and fruitful".

He added that the Damascus talks were aimed at putting a regional and international pressure on Israel to cease its attacks on south Lebanon.

The spokesman further noted that both Iran and Syria would employ all available potentials to exert pressure on the Zionist regime.

"The Zionist regime would gain no achievement from its attacks on the people of south Lebanon rather, such aggressions would further strengthen resistance of people there," he said.

The world public opinion, added the spokesman, had been mobilized against the Zionist regime due to its savage aggressions against the Lebanese people and this would put the usurper Israel in a weak position.

The spokesman underlined legitimacy of the defence of Lebanese nation against Israel and said it was in conformity with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter. "Becasue, it is clear that Israel is seeking hegemonic objectives in Lebanon."

"Full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 425 and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories in Lebanon, is the only solution to the current crisis."

He stressed, "the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it a humanitarian duty to support forces who heroically defend Lebanon against the Zionist aggressors."

Interviewed on Discussions

LD3007180693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Damascus by unidentified correspondent on 30 July—recorded]

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, please tell our viewers about the talks you held yesterday and today with Syrian and Lebanese officials about the latest developments in Lebanon.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the dear listeners and viewers of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I must tell you that, at the moment, the region as a whole, and Lebanon in particular, is faced with a dangerous conspiracy. The Zionist regime is subjecting the defenseless people of Lebanon to an extensive attack and to relentless bombardment.

In our consultations with senior Syrian officials, especially his eminence Hafiz al-Asad, the honorable Syrian president, and the officials of south Lebanon's resistance forces, we realized that, as can be seen, despite the painful effects and extensive damage resulting from this savage attack by the Zionist regime, with the unstinting struggles and efforts of the entire Lebanese nation, especially the resistance combatants, these conspiracies have not yielded any fruit for the Zionist regime.

It became clear to us in Damascus that, more than anything else, it is unity which has allowed the continuation of the resistance, unity among all sides. Full agreement exists among Syria, the Lebanese Government and nation, the resistance forces, especially the Hizballah forces, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, as you have seen, the Zionist regime has declared its aim in the latest round of attacks on southern Lebanon as being the removal of Hizballah. You have, in the course of yesterday and today, held two rounds of talks with Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah. What did he say during these talks?

[Velayati] God be praised, Hizballah has a very strong spirit and it has, so far, been totally successful in continuing the resistance to the Zionist regime and, fortunately, it is benefiting from the unstinting support of the governments and people of Lebanon, Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of all Palestinian and Lebanese resistance forces. Not only is there no faltering in Hizballah's spirit, in reality, as the resistance continues and as the steadfastness before the enemy has borne fruit in recent days, their spirit has strengthened.

Further on Activities

LD3107102493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that, during the past 48 hours, the Iranian delegation in Syria, led by Foreign Minister Velayati, has made a great deal of effort to mobilize all resources and to create total unity among all factions, in order to put concentrated pressure on the Zionists.

During that period the Iranian delegation has met and held talks with the Syrian authorities, Lebanese resistance officials, the secretary general of the Lebanese Hizbollah, and the leaders of the 10 Palestinian groups.

Meets Syrian, Lebanese Counterparts

LD3107204893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] A tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran was held in Damascus on Saturday [31 July] afternoon. In the meeting, the foreign ministers of the three countries stressed their agreement about the continuation and consolidation of the Islamic-national resistance of the heroic people of Lebanon, and strongly condemned the savage attacks on and the bombardment of Lebanon by the regime occupying Quds [Jerusalem]. They described the inhuman operations as a blatant example of state terrorism.

The foreign ministers of the three countries stated that the revolutionary resistance movement of Lebanon is carrying out a legitimate defense of its home and livelihood and that such a resistance against occupiers is the legitimate right of any nation, and stressed the need for the immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist regime from Lebanese territory. They also criticized the Security Council's double standards on the implementation of UN resolutions.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran described their meeting as a manifestation of the three countries' unity of opinion in the face of the Zionist regime's merciless attacks against Lebanon.

Al-Shar', Velayati Comment

NC3107144793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1248 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati following their meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Damascus on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] The meeting was held between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to exchange views on recent developments and the continuation of the Israeli bombardment of Lebanese towns and villages. We exchanged views on these developments and their adverse effect on the region. We agreed on the need for an immediate halt of the Israeli bombardment of Lebanese towns and villages.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, have you taken any measures to remove the Israeli excuses for attacking the south?

[Al-Shar'] We only exchanged views. Our views were that this aggressive action and bombardment should stop.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the United States has asked you to obtain a written pledge from Tehran that the shelling will stop.

[Al-Shar'] There are no written pledges.

[Reporter] Diplomatic sources in Beirut say that Christopher has held diplomatic contacts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel for a cease-fire at 1800 today.

[Al-Shar'] These are good efforts. As you know, we have informed the United States of the need for Israel to stop its savage bombardment of Lebanon and to end its attacks on Lebanese towns and villages.

[Reporter] Are the Arab resolutions enough to bring about a cease-fire?

[Al-Shar'] We hope that a total halt of military operations will begin today. We hope Secretary Christopher will come to the region to discuss the future of the peace process in this negative climate that has occurred in the past few days.

[Reporter] Mr. Velayati, Israel accuses Iran of supporting Hizballah to scuttle the negotiations. What is your comment?

[Velayati, in English] We have already said that we support the resistance of the Lebanese in defending their own country, the legal and legitimate defense that the Lebanese are doing in the southern part of Lebanon. We found that these three countries—Syria, Iran, and Lebanon—have strongly supported this resistance. But that does not mean that the continuation of this resistance is against anybody.

Departs Damascus 31 Jul

JN3107152693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation left Damascus at noon today following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', chief of the Protocol Department, and Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Army Day Message on Lebanon, Peace

JN0108062693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 93

["Text" of message from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Armed Forces, published in the two Army magazines JAYSH AL-SHA'B and AL-JUNDI AL-'ARABI, on the 48th anniversary of the Syrian Army; date not given]

[Text] O brothers and sons within the ranks of our Armed Forces; O officers, noncommissioned officers, and valiant soldiers: While marking the 48th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, it gives me extreme pleasure to congratulate you all, to tell you of my affection for you, and to express to you my appreciation for the auspicious efforts you made last year in the fields of training and preparations, and also in all other areas of military performance, in which you have always excelled. Through this, you have vowed to defend the homeland and the nation's causes and to confront all the dangers it

may face. Good performance is the outcome of good training and preparedness. Likewise, a firm position is the outcome of strong ideology and firm belief. You have made good preparations and plans. Hence, your performance, as usual, has been good. You have entrenched within your souls your faith in the doctrine of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as well as your faith in your pan-Arab affiliation. Consequently, your firm positions have been living testimony to your being an ideologically motivated army that has deservedly become the Arab nation's army, which is strong, thanks to its intrinsic potentials and its nation, and whose nation derives strength from it.

It is extremely heartening and gladdening to note that this anniversary serves as a clear and evident indication of ceaseless and steady progress in your efforts to acquire capabilities and efficiency. This has been made possible by traits and characteristics which have marked your conduct. These include your affection for the homeland, your willingness to make sacrifices, and your heroic performance, as well as your faith in the unity of the Arab homeland and in the inseparableness of its causes.

These distinctive traits and characteristics have been entrenched and taken root in your education and in your way of life, thus rendering the Syrian Arab Army the army of the homeland and the nation, which is willing to take the initiative, when such an initiative becomes imperative, and which is willing to defend, when defense becomes a duty. It is the army which will not slacken or hesitate to come to the rescue of brothers when such rescue is deemed necessary. The history of our Armed Forces throughout the past 48 years, is replete with evidence of all this, beginning with the jihad of our army when it was only a small force not properly manned or equipped in the battle of Palestine in 1948, and ending with all the other battles it has waged ever since in the course of its confrontation of the Zionist wave of aggression and expansion, during which it registered honorable stands. This has also been made manifestly clear by its matchless heroic feats during the glorious October war, the war of attrition in the Golan and Mount Hermon, the Lebanon war which you bravely waged in the face of the sinful and criminal aggression against Lebanon in 1982, and also by the fraternal Lebanon mission it has accomplished over the past 17 years, not to mention the fraternal mission you carried out during the crisis of the Kuwait occupation, as well as the other honorable and manly feats you have forged in the course of your efforts to vindicate the nation's causes.

We inherited great values from the glorious history of our nation—values of manliness and pride, values of chivalry, heroism, right, and justice; we inherited great and noble principles included in the divine messages that were born on our land. When we mention these values and sublime principles, we mention the most important of these values; namely, martyrdom for the sake of God and homeland. This value has always been a shining star to our nation on the road to victory.

We have determined to make Martyrs Day a great day in our life, on which we honor those who sacrificed the dearest thing man can offer for the sake of God and homeland. We pledged to take care of their sons and families, and to provide them with their needs as much as possible. We promise the most honorable and noble ones to honor our pledge and to continue their march—the march of martyrdom or victory.

O brothers and sons within the ranks of our heroic Armed Forces: It is no exaggeration to say that we are waging a battle that is the battle of peace. We are waging the battle of peace with the same capability with which we waged battles of war. Our stands in the peace battle will not be less courageous than our stands on the battlefield.

All those concerned should know that our support for peace does not mean accepting the peace Israel wants to impose on the Arab parties or accepting less than what is meant by a just peace in all its different aspects. So far, there has been no evidence that Israel is willing to make peace; there is proof of the contrary. He who wants peace does not shell with missiles and bombs defenseless civilians, destroy their houses with warplanes over their heads, or kill the children, women, and youths just because they want to get rid of occupation.

Israel's claim that its security hinges on making peace with its forces, which occupy the Arab territories and launch the widest aggression on the sons of this land who are its legitimate owners, is illogical.

Since the launching of the peace process, Israel has been creating obstacles and evading substantial issues and peace requirements. Israel continued to procrastinate when there was a need for a clear stand on the bases of the peace process, the Security Council resolutions, and on the land-for-peace formula.

If security is Israel's concern, as it claims, its pretext in this regard is baseless. This should be the argument of the Arabs after all that they have been exposed to as a result of the Israeli aggressions supported by Western countries and after the long suffering resulting from Israel's occupation of Arab territory. The aggressor's shells and missiles can kill and destroy, but they never can quell the spirit of resistance against aggressors. They will only kindle the fire of rancor against aggressors and enhance determination to resist aggressors and occupation. A just and comprehensive peace, with its real components, can achieve security. Israel cannot monopolize the right to demand security while it is continuing its occupation. Resisting occupation is a legitimate right approved by all international laws to all those whose lands are occupied, and the way to end resistance is to end occupation and to restore lands and rights to their owners. This should be the basis of the efforts of the cosponsors of the peace process.

O brothers and sisters in our Armed Forces:

With our determination and power we will write our history and draw our path. Our path has always been that of goodness, justice, and peace. We will not relinquish our rights or bargain over our occupied territory. On this basis, we seek peace. He who wants this peace should be aware of our fair demand and sound stand.

On this occasion, I would like to renew, on your behalf, heartfelt greetings to our kinfolk and sons in the occupied Syrian Golan, to our steadfast brothers in the occupied Palestinian territory, to our valiant brothers in occupied southern Lebanon who, every day, affirm their deep belief in martyrdom and draw, through this faith, the path of victory over aggressors.

My heartfelt greetings to you in all your positions; my greetings to your families who gave birth to brave heroes to raise high the banner of the homeland. With you, with our lofty people, who stand behind you in closed ranks, with our full alertness, and with our complete readiness, we will continue our march very confident that victory is our lot, God willing.

God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] General Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces

Commentaries Discuss Cease-Fire in Lebanon

'Natural' Result of League Meeting

JN0108084493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the conclusion of the emergency session of the Arab League Council held by the Arab foreign ministers in Damascus, affirming that the resolutions passed by the Council assert categorically that all Arabs are united in their opposition to Israeli aggression, and consequently that Arab solidarity with Lebanon in its confrontation of the aggression constitutes a significant and basic fact that cannot be overlooked, as well as a pan-Arab duty.

TISHRIN adds: A new phase has been ushered in by the halt to the barbaric Israeli air bombardment and shelling of southern Lebanon. This phase is surely the natural outcome of the results of the meetings of the emergency session of the Arab League Council held by the Arab foreign ministers. Arab states must comply with the Damascus meeting resolutions, which expressed support for Lebanon, particularly since these resolutions were unanimously endorsed by all participants. This is of particular importance if Lebanon is to cope with the effects of the aggression as well as the calamities and tragedies it created. Compliance with these resolutions is achievable if the massive and powerful Arab solidarity expressed with Lebanon is translated into practical and tangible measures and steps.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the same issue, saying: The statement issued by the emergency session of the Arab League Ministerial Council has affirmed the collective Arab solidarity with Lebanon. At the same time, this session has shown the Arabs' ability to sidestep some of their differences to confront the dangers posed to their existence and future. The accomplishment scored at the Damascus meetings has not come as a surprise. However, it has marked the beginning as well as the nucleus of an Arab desire to reestablish Arab solidarity.

Israeli Operation 'Failure'

JN0208075393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on the failure of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, TISHRIN says: In his speech to the Armed Forces, President Hafiz al-Asad made it clear that our understanding of the desired peace in the region has not changed at all, that Israel does not want peace, and that whoever shells defenseless civilians with rockets and bombs, destroys homes, kills children, women, and youths does not want peace.

TISHRIN notes the president's reiteration of Syria's familiar position that resisting occupation is a legitimate right; that the only way to end resistance is by ending occupation and returning territories and rights to their owners; that there can be no bargaining over our occupied territory nor any relinquishment of our rights; and that just, comprehensive peace alone achieves peace in the region.

TISHRIN goes on: The president's assertions refuted the claims of the rulers of Israel regarding the success of their criminal operation in southern Lebanon and their propaganda about a change in Arab positions. Syria, along with Lebanon and all Arab sides, adheres to constant pan-Arab principles and the foundations of a just, comprehensive peace, based on Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace. The brutal Israeli aggression has unified Arab ranks, strengthened Lebanese national unity and the fraternal ties between Lebanon and Syria. The Arab foreign ministers, who met in Damascus to support Lebanon, have all condemned the savage Zionist aggression and declared support for Lebanese steadfastness, stressing the need to maintain and take care of national resistance.

TISHRIN asserts that the Israeli attacks on Lebanon have removed the halo with which Rabin has surrounded himself since he assumed power in Israel, giving the impression that he is a man of peace. Rabin has revealed himself to the world community as a terrorist thirsty for destruction and sabotage, citing the week-long organized destruction of towns and villages and the displacement

of hundreds of thousands of people in southern Lebanon. This can only be done by someone who has a sick mind, has a mania for killing and blood, and is unable to understand peace and its human meanings and noble dimensions.

TISHRIN goes on: The Arabs want peace, but only a just and honorable peace. No power on earth can impose dishonorable solutions on them.

TISHRIN concludes: In the wake of Israel's heinous crime in Lebanon and after exposing its schemes to destroy the people and their surroundings and depopulate the territory, the Arabs are today determined to face Israeli tyranny and not to cede one inch of their territory or any of their rights. Everybody is now aware of Israel's inherent hostility to peace, right, and justice.

Under the headline "The Policy of Aggression Does Not Bring Peace and Security," AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli aggression against defenseless civilians has once again confirmed that Israel does not want a just and comprehensive peace, and that it wants to impose a fait accompli policy, using all means to achieve this.

This fact is not only confirmed by the aggression against southern Lebanon. The Washington peace talks have proven that U.S. policy is based on maneuvering and deception, and consequently, seizing opportunities to implement what can be implemented of the Israeli scheme to establish a Torah Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Leader al-Asad reasserted two days ago that Syria's support for peace does not mean accepting peace which Israel wants to impose on the Arabs. Nor does it mean accepting anything less than what is meant by the concept of just peace in its different aspects. His excellency added: There is no evidence to date that Israel seeks peace. Available evidence indicates the contrary.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Israel is under a great illusion if it thinks it can impose the peace it wants on the Arabs. It is true that the Arabs went to Madrid and then Washington. This, however, has been fundamentally based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land for peace principle. Any interpretation or suggestion contradicting these principles, on which the peace process was established, will be rejected by the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Here, we repeat what leader al-Asad said in his speech to our Armed Forces: We do not relinquish our rights; we do not bargain over our occupied territory. We seek peace on these bases. Resisting occupation is a legitimate right approved by all international laws. It is the way to end occupation and restore lands and rights to their owners. Finally, we should note that the policy of aggression can never bring peace, security, and stability.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN0108202093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab League Council emergency session held in Damascus 30-31 July. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, and Mahmud al-Khalidi, director of the PLO office in Damascus also attended.

The talks evaluated the results of the Arab League Council session, developments in Lebanon, in light of the Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon and its effect on the peace process, and the upcoming visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state.

Al-Asad Meets With Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

JN3107203893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] At 1745 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad conveyed the greetings of Kuwait's amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to the president, who asked him to convey similar greetings.

The talks covered the situation in the region in light of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the Arab League Ministerial Council session in Damascus.

Assembly Speaker Returns From Beirut Meetings

JN0108164093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA)—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd- al-Qadir Qaddurah and his accompanying parliamentary delegation returned to Damascus at noon today after participating in the 24th extraordinary session of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council held in Beirut yesterday.

Ba'th Party Delegation Returns From Visit to DPRK

JN0108173593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA)—A Syrian delegation led by Dr. Ahmad Dirgham, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, has returned to Damascus from the DPRK after participating in its celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of its victory in the national liberation war.

The Syrian delegation conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to DPRK President Kim Il-song, and held meetings with many delegations that attended the celebrations. It also met with the DPRK foreign minister and discussed with him relations between the two friendly countries and ways to bolster them in order to achieve common interests.

Afghanistan

Russia Bombs Badakhshan Province 28 Jul; 20 Killed

LD3007185393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] According to reports received from the Shahr-e Bozorg District of Badakhshan Province, on 6 Asad [28 July], eight airplanes of Russia's army bombarded the villages of (?Painur), (?Shelzana), Bar-e Kham, (?Dashmanzor), and Dawak in Shahr-e Bozorg District. The reports added that, as a result of this bombardment by Russian forces, 20 of our compatriots were martyred and 30 others injured. Hundreds of animals were killed, and many residents and village farmland were damaged.

Primakov-Led Russian Delegation Arrives 30 Jul

Received by State Minister

LD3007190593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] A delegation from the Federation of Russia led by Yevgeniy Primakov, acting head of national security of Russia and special envoy of President Boris Yeltsin, arrived at noon in Kabul for talks on issues of interest to both countries.

The delegation was received at Kabul International Airport by esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, esteemed Lieutenant General Mohammad Yunus Qanoni, head of Political Department of the Ministry of Defense, esteemed Fahim, head of National Security, and esteemed Dr. Abdorrahman and a number of state officials.

Primakov Promises To Halt Bombing

BK3107162093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 31 Jul 93

[By Terence White]

[Excerpts] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy met with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani here Saturday and promised to halt the bombing of Afghanistan's northern border, the presidential spokesman said.

"Our side requested the Russians to stop shelling the Afghan border because it was unprovoked and unlawful—and they agreed," said Abdul Aziz Morad, presidential spokesman.

The main conclusion reached in the one hour talks between Rabbani and Yeltsin's envoy Yevgeniy Maximovich Primakov, was that the Tajik crisis was a purely internal affair and that Afghanistan and Russia should not interfere in it, said Morad.

Further, in the first face-to-face talks Rabbani has had with the Russians since he became president in December 1992, it was agreed the Tajik problems should be solved by negotiation between the Tajik government and opposition parties, Morad added.

He said Afghanistan and Russia would cooperate in solving these problems in order to bring a permanent peace to the region.

The Russians have been shelling the northern Afghan border along the Amu Darya (Oxus) River in retaliation for alleged Afghan support for Islamic Tajik rebels battling the Russian-supported pro-communist regime in the Tajik capital Dushanbe. [passage omitted]

Finally, Morad said both sides expressed their desire to improve relationships between the Afghan and Russian Governments.

But Afghans are wary of Russian intentions on their borders, having already endured a 10-year military occupation by the Red Army, which was finally defeated by the mojahedin and forced to withdraw from Afghanistan in 1989.

Primakov arrived Friday with Russian Defence Ministry official, Genadiy Milakhov Barisovich; assistant head of the Foreign Ministry's West Asian Department, Shuvalov Constantin Viktorovich; and representative of the border forces of the Ministry of National Security, Magbar Ivan Vladimarovich.

He came "on his own initiative" Morad said, and not by Afghan Government invitation.

Primakov met with deputy Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i head of National Security General Fahim, and former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud before his talks with President Rabbani.

It was not yet clear whether Primakov, who is expected to return to Moscow Sunday, will met with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, Morad said.

Premier Offers Asylum to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman

JN0108205593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Ahmad Idris dispatch from Islamabad, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has offered Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman political asylum in Afghanistan in the event he is deported from the United States. In a statement confirmed by Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] sources in Pakistan, Hekmatyar said in a press statement: We are prepared to grant him asylum in Afghanistan, if he needs a country of refuge. He made plain, however, that this does not constitute interference in Egypt's domestic affairs, and that Shyakh 'Umar would have only refugee status in Afghanistan.

In contrast to these remarks, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani said in a press statement that he will not grant Shaykh 'Umar asylum in Afghanistan. Afghan diplomatic sources told our radio that granting Shaykh 'Umar asylum in Afghanistan is a personal initiative taken by Hekmatyar rather than an official Afghan Government measure. These sources note that there are now thousands of Shaykh 'Umar's followers residing in Afghanistan. Such discrepancy in the two Afghan officials' remarks is understandable given their political differences and the existence of a government for each of the two in the areas under their respective supporters.

Islamic Movement Commander Assassinated

LD0108171493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] According to official sources from Mazar-e Sharif, a commander of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Ashur Pahlawan, was assassinated. He was attacked by unidentified armed men two days ago. The security forces of Mazar-e Sharif have begun investigating the incident and have [words indistinct].

India

Elections Postponed Until Further Notice

BK0208090993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] All elections announced and notified by the Election Commission have been postponed until further order. This was announced by the Election Commission in New Delhi today. According to a press release, the decision will cover the biennial elections to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat and West Bengal, three Lok Sabha seats, 14 legislative assembly seats and two state legislative council seats—the elections to all of which have either been already notified or announced.

Giving the reasons for the announcement, the release said the Election Commission is a sole authority to decide about the staff for discharge of functions conferred on the Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution and that the central and state governments cannot decide it. If these powers are given to these governments, the work of the commission to prepare electoral rolls and conduct the elections will be virtually usurped by the government, which was not the intention of the Constitution.

The press note adds that a state has been reached in which the Election Commission is being deliberately and consciously prevented and incapacitated to discharge its constitutional obligations and duties by what it describes as open defiance by the government of the provisions of the Constitution and laws made by Parliament. The commission urged that the union government should accept the constitutional provisions and in particular its prerogative of securing the assistance of the necessary staff.

The Election Commission further says that it will not take any action to hold any elections until the union government announces its willingness to abide by the constitutional provisions and the laws relating to elections.

10,000 Kashmiris Protest Murder of Family

BK0108152693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 1 (AFP)—Thousands of angry Kashmiris took to the streets here Sunday shouting anti-India slogans to protest the alleged killing of a family of three by Indian border guards, police and witnesses said.

An estimated 10,000 men, women and children staged the noisy demonstration in downtown Srinagar after the Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly gunned down a Muslim boy of 10 and his parents after a rebel attack.

The BCF men forced themselves into the family's house and opened random fire, the sources said, triggering the massive protest. The crowds then marched to the city's "Martyrs' Graveyard" where the three were buried.

"The three were killed from point blank range," one resident said.

Fourteen other people have been killed elsewhere in continuing violence in the troubled Kashmir Valley since late Saturday, police sources said.

The victims included four Muslim militants, who are waging a bloody campaign for Kashmir's secession. Further details were not available.

Seven Civilians Killed During Security Forces Operation

BK3107064693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven civilians were killed in Pulwama District when militants opened fire at security forces while using civilians as cover. An official spokesman of the state government said in New Delhi today the incident happened while the security forces were conducting a cordon and search operation. One militant was also killed in the exchange of fire between the militants and the forces.

Meanwhile, in the Kupwara sector, the security forces intercepted a large group of infiltrators yesterday in the five km belt adjoining the Line of Control. The state director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, said the interceptors, who were asked to surrender, opened fire. This was returned by the forces resulting in the death of 13 infiltrators. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Commentary Views Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

BK0208041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Commentary by D. Sen]

[Text] The interim prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has told media persons in Islamabad that his country has developed the capability of producing a nuclear bomb and that it needs the weapon as a deterrant. In absolute judgment, he has not said anything new. Only the other day, the former Pakistan army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, disclosed that Pakistan had detonated a nuclear bomb in laboratory conditions in 1987 itself. If the world had not witnessed an uproar over it, the reason, perhaps, was that Pakistan was doing an excellent job as a launching pad for the Western-backed mojahedin assault on a Soviet-dominated Afghanistan.

Since then, the father of the Pakistan nuclear bomb, Dr. Abdul Kader Khan, told a visiting Indian newsman that his country had made the bomb. Not so long ago, when Mr. Nawaz Sharif was prime minister, the Pakistan Foreign Office secretary general had admitted his country's acquisition of the capability to produce a nuclear bomb. So, Mr. Qureshi has not said anything that the world did not know. What makes his statement significant, however, is the timing of it. The senior technocrat from the World Bank with considerable clout in Washington is supposedly undertaking a temporary job to ensure a free and fair election in Pakistan within three months. By the very nature of his job, policy matters are hardly his jurisdiction or priorities. An elected prime minister, like Ms. Benazir Bhutto, lamented that while in office she was kept in the dark, apparently, by the army about the country's nuclear program. Here, we have a prime minister appointed and not elected to his office, for a brief tenure, who not only lays claim to the knowledge of Pakistan's ability to make the bomb but urges U.S. Vice President Al Gore to use his good offices with India to resolve the Kashmir issue.

It is not easy to miss the orchestration of Pakistan's disclosure of its acquisition of the bomb, which it sees as a deterrant in a conflict with India, and a heightened expression of American concern about a possible Indo-Pak war over Kashmir with the likely use of nuclear weapons.

Iran

National Security Council Reviews Lebanon Events

LD3107180693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening. Members of the council as well as political advisers and top military commanders were present at the session.

The Supreme National Security Council reviewed the latest reports on the extensive aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon.

At the session, it was stressed that the Israeli extensive and bestial attacks, which have inflicted heavy casualties and financial losses on Muslims in southern Lebanon and have resulted in hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes, definitely indicate ominous plots hatched against regional nations and the interests of the world of Islam, particularly the oppressed people of Palestine and Lebanon. It is a matter of great regret that in contemporary history supporting the aggressor and endorsing what is gained by aggression is considered a move toward peace.

During the session the council's members also termed Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty inviolable and strongly condemned the brutal aggression of the Jerusalem-occupying army against residential areas and civilians and held the Zionist regime agents and their supporters, particularly the Government of America, completely responsible for the consequences of that anti-human aggression.

The members also expressed regret about the position adopted by the UN Security Council concerning such a clear act of aggression and termed it a political opportunity to cover up the prolonged crimes of the Zionist regime. They also pointed out that at the current juncture the heavy responsibility of the all-around defense of the rights of the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine lies with all Islamic countries, particularly the countries of the region. No doubt the oppressed people of Lebanon and particularly the Islamic Resistance Front will enjoy the full support of each and every Muslim in the world.

President Condemns World 'Silence' Over Lebanon

LD0108112293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] As you have heard in the news, a group of Iranian students abroad met the president today. The first news report is dedicated to a detailed report of the meeting.

During the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the important role of students in the country, called for the students' further endeavors for resolving the country's scientific, technical, and specialist problems.

Describing the latest economic status of the country, and making a positive assessment of the results of the implementation of the first five-year plan, the president laid emphasis on the continuation of the policy of adjustment [siasat-e ta'dil]] for reforming the state administrative system and added: Through the economies made in the sale of national assets, the implementation and expansion of infrastructural projects—including railways,

power station construction, and technical-industrial projects—a complete end to the country's economic dependency will be realized in the long run. [passage omitted]

Describing the new status of the world and the domination of unfair relations—based on bullying—and the unipolarization of the world, the president recalled Iran's outstanding status because of its political independence and added: Under the present conditions, where our enemies are greedily seeking to return us to the prerevolutionary circumstances of dependence, and on the whole are dreaming dreams of renewing colonialism in the world of Islam in the manner of the past century, the planning, striving, and cooperation, of the young generation—especially students—are needed for the continuation of the achievements of the Islamic revolution and the authority of the state now and in the time to come.

Reviewing the position of our country's Islamic government, status, and political stability, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the current developments in the region, especially the recent onslaught by the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon, and criticizing the world silence regarding those crimes, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran was the most clear voice to support and confirm the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon. It endeavored to stem the continuation of aggression by the Zionists. Those endeavors bore fruit and the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime was thwarted in reaching its evil objectives. [passage omitted]

Commentaries Discuss Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

Need for Arab, Islamic Unity

LD3007163493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Iran's foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Damascus, the capital of Syria, to hold talks concerning the Zionist regime's attacks against south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Syria is taking place while concurrently foreign ministers of 21 Arab countries and members of the Arab League have gathered in Damascus to discuss the current issues in Lebanon.

This is while the necessity of adopting an identical stance and an effort by the Arab and Islamic countries to counter the objectives which Israel is pursuing in this attack is felt more than ever before.

Analysts believe that the Zionist regime's attacks against south Lebanon is eventually pursuing the objective of placing the Arab front in the Middle East talks in a position not to have any alternative other than making further concessions.

The same observers believe that the Zionist regime is seeking to attain military victory with the political and propaganda support of its supporters against the Arabs in order to place the Arab front in a stance of despair and surrender in the Middle East talks. These observers also believe that if the Zionist regime manages to put the Islamic national resistance of Lebanon under pressure through these attacks in a way that it will lead to disarmament of Lebanon's resistance, it has removed one of the biggest obstacles in the way of imposing its objectives in the compromise talks [Arab-Israeli talks]. It is also likely to dissuade the Arabs, especially Syria, from its demands on the Golan Heights stage by stage. In the meantime, it sees that Israeli military measures is a method to attain the unachievable in the Middle East political talks.

Amidst this, the presence of Islamic national resistance in south Lebanon, which clearly reflects the activity of the Islamic Arab resistance against the Zionist regime expansionism, has had a significant role in showing non-surrender before Israel and its international supporters.

At any rate, it seems that under the present sensitive conditions the Arab countries involved in the Middle East talks have in mind the key role of support for the deterring role of the Islamic-Arab resistance in south Lebanon and its impact on the equation which are effective on these talks.

Beyond a doubt, if Israel does not gain anything from military measures, it would not have the chance to put the Arab front under pressure for making further concessions in the Middle East talks.

The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Syria under the present conditions is an effort aimed to strengthen the Islamic Arab front under the determining conditions the world of Islam and the world of Arab are facing.

Hizballah's 'Legitimacy' Defended

NC3107084193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Excerpts] The military aggression by the Zionist regime in Lebanon has continued for several days in succession. International and regional condemnation is mounting.

Last night, the foreign ministers of 17 Arab League member countries convened an extraordinary session in Damascus to assess the latest Israeli aggression in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who has been in Syria for the past few days, is seeking—by meetings and contacts—to exert greater pressure on the despotic, aggressive regime of Israel to end its aggression against Lebanon.

Political observers say that when the Zionist regime's aggression inflicts massive loss of life and property on the country's Muslim people, the aggression mobilizes international public against Israel and the despotic Jerusalem regime and places its international supporters in a weak position.

Similarly, the legitimacy and rightfulness of Hizballah and other resistance forces in Lebanon have become clearer than ever to the world. This is because the resistance is defending its rights and territorial integrity against the Zionist regime.

These political observers believe that although countries such as the United States send in $400,000 of assistance to Lebanese refugees affected by the recent aggression and seek to don a more human veneer in this manner, it is no secret that the U.S. Government has awarded billions of dollars of military and economic assistance and, with its support of Israeli aggression in international circles, it is, in practice, considered a partner in Israel's crimes. The region's Muslim people will never differentiate between these two as long as the United States continues to support Israel.

Israeli Motives Analyzed

LD3107210993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Analysts say that current Israeli attacks against Lebanon go beyond an ordinary reaction to the operations launched by the Islamic Resistance Movement. These attacks in fact are aimed at starting an unequal war by Israel in the wake the killing of a number of its soldiers in the occupied south Lebanon.

These analysts say that Israel, by embarking on its relentless attacks against south Lebanon, is pursuing three main goals:

Firstly to crush the Islamic resistance movement and to terminate the operations taking place in south Lebanon. These operations, despite the high combat capability of the occupiers, have made them helpless.

Secondly to create a rift between the nation and government of Lebanon on one side, and the Islamic Resistance Movement on the other. This is being done by launching the psychological war against the people and forcibly migrating them. This act will undoubtedly create certain problems with the Lebanese government. In its wishful thinking Israel is preparing the grounds for crushing the Islamic resistance movement.

And thirdly there exists the issue of the so called peace talks and their next round. Majority opinion is that by launching such attacks against Lebanon, the Israeli regime intends to bring up its security issue rather than its withdrawal from south Lebanon in the course of the 11th round of the so called peace parleys.

In other words the Zionist regime is seeking at the extent of the next round of the so called talks to take the initiative by bringing up its own security affairs instead of discussing UN security council resolution 425 and withdrawal from south Lebanon. By asserting its own security issues Tel Aviv wants to overshadow that resolution.

But despite all the ploys and heinous attacks of Israel, the defenseless nation of Lebanon is being massacred. Hence coordination among the government and nation of Lebanon and the Islamic resistance movement for terminating the Zionist regime's occupation is a clear cut move which neutralizes all these tricks.

Christopher Tour Likely To Fail

LD0108130693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Israeli leaders had in fact thought of three stages for their attacks against Lebanon. The first stage entailed dealing an effective military blow against Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance Movement. The second stage entailed destroying residential areas and the creation of a wave of homelessness among the steadfast people of Lebanon through the bombing and shelling of villages and towns. The third stage entailed breaking popular resistance and creating chaos in the Lebanese Government and disturbing that country's national unity, sowing the seeds of discord among various sects in Lebanon, and distancing the government's formal support from the resistance and Hezbollah, and finally, bringing popular pressure to bear on Hezbollah, as the so-called creator of the crisis, and then in conclusion the disarming of the Hezbollah.

However, Israel was also thinking of a fourth stage, the implementation of which has been assigned to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to bring pressure to bear on Syria to stop its support for the anti-Zionist resistance.

While Israel was trying to complete the first and second stages of its plan and follow up its political goals, Iranian diplomacy entered the scene of political encounter to neutralize the Zionist regime's political goals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran sided with the government and people of Lebanon and the Islamic Resistance Movement, and supported the selfless resistance of the nation and Government of Lebanon, while the Zionist regime's military and political pressure was at its peak and the United States, the UN Security Council, and Western countries responded by their unmanly silence or weak and hypocritical reaction that encouraged the people and Government of Lebanon to continue their steadfastness and self-sacrifice. That practically foiled

the Zionist regime's political goal which formed the most dangerous part of its bestial aggression. [passage omitted]

One of the outstanding results of the visit of our country's foreign minister [to Syria] was the trilateral session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Lebanon on the last day of their visit to Damascus which created a joint chain of power against Israel, and a strong shield against the plot to push resistance aside.

The political goals of the Zionist regime's aggression against Lebanon was not limited to that country's borders; Israel also tried, by killing a number of Syrian soldiers, to bring pressure on Syria—from a position of power and taking advantage of U.S. support—to force Syria to distance itself from resistance and use its weakened position to force it to compromise. But the joint chain made up of Iran, Syria, and Lebanon was a strong reply by the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to the Zionist regime's aggression.

Therefore, it does not seem likely that the fourth stage of the U.S.-Israeli operations, which has begun with Christopher's visit to Syria, will have much ground for success.

Editorial Criticizes Christopher Remarks on Resistance

NC0208122093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Lebanese Islamic Resistance—Thorn in Zionists' Side"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The newly inducted U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has again subjected U.S. foreign policy to ridicule with his utterances indicating the extent of the inexperience of the current echelons in Washington.

In an amazing statement of opinion, Christopher sent a letter to his Lebanese counterpart saying peace in Lebanon can only be achieved by reining in the resistance activities of the people in south Lebanon against Israeli attacks! The novice U.S. secretary of state elaborated that only if the resistance in south Lebanon is reduced, can the United States motivate Israel to refrain from military operations in south Lebanon.

These remarks by the U.S. secretary of state are not only preposterous, but audacious, as they imply that while there is resistance by the people in south Lebanon against the savage Israeli attacks, the United States will endorse the crimes of the usurping Israeli forces and will not insist, even slightly, on a halt to these atrocities.

To comprehend the extent of Washington's audacity on Lebanon and Israel, we should view it against the backdrop of the past and see why the United States is so insistent on dousing the flames of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and deems it necessary for peace to return to south Lebanon.

Since the inception of Israel, the Zionist usurpers have generated insecurity in the country with their attacks, which have concentrated on south Lebanon. Let us not forget that Imam Musa Sadr, the leader of the Lebanese Shiites who disappeared many years ago in suspicious circumstances, was the first person to try to organize the residents in the south and set up Islamic resistance cells in south Lebanon so that all the Israeli aggression would not go unanswered. At least the bestial aggressors would sustain some blows in proportion with the strength of the Muslims in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The noble youths of Lebanon felt seriously endangered and were ready to lay down their lives to shatter the Zionist plots, especially with the powers of world arrogance overtly entering the arena. [passage omitted]

If Christopher wants to recall the facts, everyone knows Lebanon is the sole Arab country in the region that Israel entered; not one bullet was fired against the occupation army by the Lebanese forces. But the Lebanese people wrought such havoc on the savage usurpers that the Israeli forces were caught in a nightmare and departed from a large part of Lebanese territory.

This will always be a major feat; it will be documented to the credit of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon that they were the only ones who could rub Israel's muzzle in the dust and inflict degradation, humiliation, and disarray on the Israeli ranks. As everyone knows, and history will bear witness, these nations will not award medals to the usurpers. Everyone knows the nations have a right to crush the aggressors and to resort to every means for the purpose. Even if the enemies of the Lebanese nation label them "terrorists," the Lebanese nation will retaliate, crushing and chastising usurping Israel as a legitimate means of defense. This is the inalienable right of nations.

The Islamic resistance in Lebanon is a thorn in the side of the Zionists and the reason for the anger and malice of the enemies of Islam. Naturally, the neophyte U.S. secretary of state will seek to extinguish these flames as a service to Israel. But will the people lay down their arms before the aggressor in their homeland? This is a question to which, even if Christopher wants to give an affirmative answer, the Lebanese nation's response—as history has proved—will be negative. That is the way it should be by right.

'Illegal Moves' of U.S. Navy in Gulf Protested

LD3007153893 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 30, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has protested against illegal moves by the U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

In two separate protest notes, handed over to the U.S. State Department by Pakistan Embassy in Washington on March 8 and April 5 this year, U.N. naval forces stationed in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman were blamed for causing repeated inconvenience for Iranian planes and helicopters last year.

The notes said that the U.S. fleet caused trouble for Iranian patrol planes and Oil Ministry helicopters 16 times from August 28 to December 3, 1992, warning their pilots to keep clear from the U.S. ships.

A U.S. warplane also flew over Iran's border waters on November 18, 1992, the notes added.

Iran's protest notes were circulated as Security Council documents at the United Nations Thursday.

Yazdi Delivers Sermon at Tehran Friday Prayers

LD3007150093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, in Tehran on 30 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In the first Friday sermons, we had a discussion on women's rights. We enumerated several of the important rights, and they were discussed to a certain extent. In the last meeting [last Friday sermon] a [woman's] right to work was discussed. I will give a short complementary discussion and indicate two points to end the discussion on the right to work. [passage omitted]

Now there are two points that I want to refer to, and make short this discussion. First, when we say that women, like men, have the right to work, and mention all types of work—in the home, outside the home, self-employment, civil service—that is definitely bound by the observance of hejab [Islamic dress], chastity, and other religious law conditions. When we say they have the right to work like men, it does not mean that they can be in the work environment in any way they wish. Naturally they must completely maintain Islamic appearance and Islamic traditions [sha'a'er].

I make the statement here and now that combating improper dress, in particular, as a rule must first start with government organizations and establishments affiliated with the government. That is, the honorable minister, directors general, and heads of government departments are dutybound to make sure that women who are employed in any way in their establishments maintain Islamic issue and Islamic appearance. The negligence that has been observed occasionally, it must be said, is the responsibility of the honorable minister, the director general, the head of the department. That we should first go to the streets and the bazaar [to enforce Islamic dress] while no attention is paid to the issue in our offices, in our government establishments, well that is not logical, acceptable. It cannot be that in any department one visits, any ministry one visits, any firm or establishment one visits, even a lady typist—right up to secretary, and the head of such and such department—should think that she is in her home and not maintain an Islamic appearance. That does not even bother visiting clients! Then we go to the streets and the bazaar and want to know why the situation is this way or that.

I repeat here that if something proper and principled is to be done, in the first instance the honorable ministers, directors general, and heads of organizations and departments are dutybound. The people tell us that when something is going on in a university, in a high school, in such and such department and even in the Voice and Vision, you cannot confront something in the streets which is more simple, less important, and then in practice, be in such and such a way yourselves. This is logical, this is correct. This task must be attended to.

They have the right to work. They can do all types of work outside the home, under the conditions discussed before, but they must maintain and observe Islamic conditions. The authorities must have a serious approach. If after a decade of revolution, a lady cannot adapt herself, well, it is no problem. She can go, and someone else can come and work instead of her. It depends on the person in authority to approach the issue strongly. [Chants of "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to antirevolutionaries," "Death to America, death to Israel," and other slogans] [passage omitted]

There are two or three other matters that I will talk about briefly. The first is the savage attack by the Zionists and the usurper government of Israel on Lebanon, the news of which you have been hearing.

Well, what does it really mean? Does it justify Israel's occupation? In any case, the occupier government must evacuate the occupied lands. The people's lands and homes must be returned to them. Israel has power and weapons and backing for the use of force. Recent history has shown that America has always supported aggressors. In the Iran-Iraq war, it supported Iraq; in the Bosnia-Herzegovina war it supported, and is supporting, the Serbs; and in the Israel-Lebanon war, which has started, it is supporting Israel. What does that mean? It merely means the use of force. It is really not the law of the jungle. It is those gentlemen's aim when they say that the new world order must be in their hands and controlled by them.

One asks oneself, what is America saying? What does it have? And why is it doing this? Just because it has weapons and the power to commit aggression, should it support the aggressor or commit aggression? What logic is that? How can it support the aggressor and then say it supports the peace process in the Middle East, and specify what form that peace should take?

It is very clear. So long as America supports aggression and aggressors, particularly Israel, it is impossible for peace to come about, least of all in Asia and the region. [Crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

You really must learn from past experience. It is obvious that one cannot use force to get things done. Inevitably, world public opinion will pass its judgment. You support the aggressor and yet claim to pursue peace in the region. These two are contradictory; they do not add up and are not practical.

At this juncture there is no time to talk about the double standard policy of the UN Security Council. Lately it has really lost its credibility because of yielding to undue influence, especially that exerted by America, on those responsible for the Security Council.

That is also true in Lebanon. Must Israel not implement the resolution approved by the Security Council? So why has it not implemented it and why does it not implement it ? Why does America not say that Israel has not implemented the resolution and why does America not say that Israel must implement it ?

Israel must definitely withdraw from the occupied territories. The occupation of land is not acceptable. The decisive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and indeed of all freedom-loving human beings, is that anyone who is an occupier and has captured the territory of others must withdraw from those territories. This is a very clear and natural issue. [Crowd chants in support]

The gentleman who is the deputy in the American State Department [as heard] has made some rather lengthy remarks, parts of which have been covered by the media, while some other parts were mentioned here. I would only like to refer to the reply provided by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants in praise of Khamene'i]—may his shadow extend—during his splendid trip to Azarbaijan Province, where we all witnessed the people's great love for him in particular and the officials of the country in general. In fact, something that can be deduced quite simply and clearly from the trip is that this system and this governing entity has the hearts of all people from all over the country as its source of support. Such a system will never come to harm.

The remarks made by the American official contained several sentences which concerned Iran; for instance, a statement that they should make efforts and increase economic and political pressure upon Iran until its behavior becomes acceptable. This is of course my polite interpretation of the remarks. I do not want to concern myself with their other interpretations. The clear reply of the eminent leader was: In the past you always made similar attempts, and you imposed an economic embargo on us. Right now you are still making attempts, but you can be sure that your efforts will never come to fruition. This is because of the unity, solidarity, and cohesion of our people. So long as our people enjoy such unity and solidarity, your efforts will never come to fruition. [Crowd chants in support]

There is no time or opportunity here to embark on a discussion about those efforts, be they in Europe, in Asia, or even in Africa—where America has begun its efforts, some of which have been responded to. In some cases they have failed miserably and in some places they are continuing their efforts. One is really astonished how they give themselves the right, for instance, to tell a country to expel the Iranian ambassador; just like a commander issuing an order to his subordinate. Really, what sort of logic is that? I have no idea. The exalted leadership used to have a certain analysis of American leaders once, as to how they think, how they look at things, by what reasoning. How an American politician gives himself the right to tell a country... [pauses] No matter at what stage that country may be: a Third World country, one beset by problems, this way or that way, whatever. In any case you should not imperiously tell it to expel so-and-so's ambassador. What for? What has that got to do with you? Are you the master of the world, the commander of the world? Is the world your servant? Get that arrogance out of your head! To say this or that whenever Iran is mentioned...[pauses] your words cannot be accepted until your good will has become clear. No one will listen to those words because of the arrogance, the desire for domination, and the tyrannical attitude that you have. No one will listen to those words. In your official statements you are still imperiously saying do this, do that. What for? Is it your business to say such things? Now whether in Europe, whether in Asia or Africa, there are many instances of efforts which they wish to make against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those efforts will never come to any conclusion either.

The last thing that I must tell you—my time is up—concerns what is happening on the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, especially the recent events, and what is going on in the borders of Tajikistan and Afghanistan and the Russian intervention. I must tell you in the most general terms that it behoves the Russian Government's leaders not to repeat the bitter experience of the occupation of Afghanistan—and all the losses they sustained and left behind. It is necessary that they pay attention to not interfering in the fate of Muslims, to not crossing other countries' borders in such a way. That is not the right way; it will not reach any proper result. You were a very great power once. Today you have many of your own problems as well. Don't make new problems for yourselves. If you resolve your internal problem it will be sufficient.

Concerning Armenia and Azerbaijan, this official stance has been repeated many times: Armenia must in any case return to its international borders and the occupied areas must be returned to Azerbaijan. There are differences of opinion; let them sit down and resolve them through negotiation. A military solution is not the way to resolve the issue. We are certain that if they really do not pay any attention to such statements and think that they should put pressure on Muslims in the same way, they should

realize that Muslim public opinion throughout the world is not a trivial issue. Today more than 1.2 billion Muslims throughout the world are not indifferent to the fate of Muslims in various corners of the world. Usually they make calculations and such calculations make an impression on your lives. We hope that more attention is paid to this and that those problems are eliminated from the world of Islam and Muslims.

Aid Shipment Sent to Azerbaijan's Agdam City

LD0108103093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Iranian Red Crescent Society has announced that the first consignment of the society's relief for refugees from the city of Agdam in Azerbaijan, including 500 fully equipped first-aid tents, 300 blankets, 20,000 tins of food, 10 tonnes of pulses, and 20 tonnes of rice, has been dispatched to that area. [passage omitted]

Armenian Community Lauded for Condemning 'Aggression'

LD3107095893 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Iranian Armenians were lauded for condemning Armenia's aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In a statement released by the office of the revolution's leader Saturday [31 July], the stance adopted by Iran's Armenians vis-a-vis such an aggression was described as a "vigilant" move.

The aggression, the statement noted, was a pre-planned U.S. conspiracy to disturb security in the region as well as in the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

During his four-day tour of the east Azerbaijan Province, ended Friday night, the leader of the revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i strongly condemned Armenia's aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Iranian Armenians subsequently issued an announcement in support of the leader's statement.

Rohani Denies Interfering in Other Countries

LD0108173193 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, August 1, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani here today reiterated that Iran has not interfered and will not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Rohani in a meeting with Moroccan Ambassador to Tehran Mohamed Azeroual termed as "libel" the Western claims that Iran intervenes in the internal affairs of some countries like Egypt and Algeria.

"The main obstacle in the way of Tehran-Cairo ties is the Camp David Accord," he stressed.

Azeroual in reply emphasized the need for further cooperation between Islamic countries, and called for promotion of political, economic and cultural ties between Tehran and Rabat.

Azeroual also met with vice-chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, Mohammad Javad Larijani, here on the same day.

The two sides called for expansion of mutual relations and said the love of the Muslims of the two countries for the progeny of the prophet (peace be upon him) was a major factor for promotion of bilateral relations.

Turkish Minister: 'No Evidence' Iran Backing PKK

NC0108093793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Kurdish Muslim People—The Ultimate Victims"]

[Text] In response to questions posed by reporters, the Turkish foreign minister stated that Turkey had no decisive evidence to prove that Iran was giving support to the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey.

This is not the first time high-ranking Turkish officials have confirmed that Iran was not interfering in the affairs of the Kurds in Turkey.

While new waves of restlessness are being reported among the Kurds in Turkey, the Kurdish people's living conditions in Northern Iraq is by all accounts extremely poor.

The tragic Kurdish affair in the region started at the end of World War II when the big world powers as well as some of the regional powers tried to use the Kurds as a political instrument against the governments in the region. In recent years there have been intensified efforts to foment discontent among the Kurds and to manipulate them as a destabilizing lever in the region.

Nationalistic tendencies, based specifically on ethnic features are not only being used as a means of exerting pressures on the regional governments, they are being manipulated to function as counter-movements against Islam which is emerging as an exceptionally strong political force.

A brief survey of the social conditions of the Kurdish communities in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and as well as in some of the republics of the former Soviet Union will reveal that they usually form the most backward communities in these countries. But this should not be taken to mean that ethnic discrimination is the cause of their backwardness. Or at least in the case of Iran such an accusation would involve great distortions of historical facts.

For long centuries the Iranian population has been composed of various Iranian ethnic groups who had been living side by side on equal social standings, and the Iranian Kurds have been no exception.

But a number of the so-called Kurdish leaders, who have always maintained secret connections with foreign powers have stirred disquiet and rebellion among the younger groups of the Kurds, and created instable conditions in the Kurdish regions. As a result the concerned governments have usually found it impossible to carry out in those regions the much-needed development programs.

The present Kurdish leaders, who are also affiliated with foreign powers, have two missions to perform in the region: To engage in ethnic wars against the central governments, and to combat the spread of the Islamic ideas among the younger groups of the Kurdish communities.

In recent years there have been abundant evidences of great pressures exerted by the nationalist Kurdish groups on the religious leaders and the young people committed to the causes of the Islamic ideology.

The Western media, of course, never refer to this sort of incidents. They restrict their coverage to the events which could be presented as proofs of the general political instability in the region.

Assistance Sought for Refugees From Iraqi Marshlands

LD0208102693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry announced that about 4,000 residents of the marshlands of southern Iraq have sought refuge in Iran's border regions in Khuzestan Province following pressure exerted by that country's government, which is draining the water from the marshlands. These people are facing severe difficulties in terms of health and nourishment and their numbers are increasing by the day. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Interior Ministry calls on international organizations and circles to rush to the assistance of Iraq's southern marshland's victims in order to put an end to the dangers which are threatening thousands of refugees. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran also established a crisis headquarters in Khuzestan's Governorate General and, with coordination with the UN High Commission for Refugees, is rapidly trying to help Iraq's southern marshland victims by sending food and basic necessities.

Government Condemns Attacks by 'Racists' in Sweden

LD0108145593 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Iran's Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, Sunday [1 August] deplored the growing trend of racial discriminations and continuation of racial intolerance in that country. The protest was made following last week's event in Stockholm in which a group of Swedish racists attacked three Iranian men with tear gas.

Meanwhile, the Swedish press criticized the police for taking ineffective measures in their fight against racism, saying that lack of decisive confrontation have further intensified racial discriminations. It is also said that media propaganda as well as the way leaders of the extremist right wing party represent economic problems have largely contributed to growing racial inclinations. Leader of the party last week blamed Afro-Americans for increasing rate of rape in the country and said that foreigners were main causes for unemployment there.

In another development, another party official warned that the Swedish society was on the brink of what he described as being entrapped by Islam. Also last week, racist assailants attacked three Somali refugees and set an Albanian residential area ablaze.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Said 'Satisfied' With U.S. Visit

BK3107030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has expressed the hope that his talks with American leaders will improve Pakistan's relations with the United States in the coming months. In an interview at Dulles International Airport before departing for London on his return home, he said that he is satisfied with the outcome of the talks. The prime minister said several senior U.S. officials will visit Pakistan in the near future.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moin Quereshi urged the international community to make speedy efforts to end Serbian aggresson against Bosnia. He expressed the hope that while joining hands with the United States, the European countries will take necessary steps to establish peace in Bonsia. Replying to a question, the prime minister said the correct date for dispatching a Pakistani contingent to Bosnia depends on the setting up of a peace mission there.

The prime minister was seen off at the airport by the acting chief of the U.S. department of protocol and the Pakistani charge d' affaires in Washington, among others.

Returns to Karachi 31 Jul

BK3107083693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, arrived in Karachi this morning after a five-day private

visit to the United States. He was received at the airport by the caretaker Sindh chief minister, Syed Ali Madad Shah, and senior officials.

U.S. Urged To Press India on Kashmir

BK0108085693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin: "Prime Minister's Parleys With Senior U.S. Officials"]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, is now back in Pakistan after his private visit to the United States. He addressed a news conference this evening in Islamabad and said that in the coming months Pakistan would be getting substantial development assistance from the IMF and World Bank. The caretaker prime minister of Pakistan seems to have made most of what has been described as his private visit to Washington D.C. Besides meeting with higher authorities in the international monetary agencies—with whom the prime minister has had long personal association—and having discussed with them the current financial and economic problems facing Pakistan, he has also met the United States vice president, Al Gore, and John Mallot—the acting head of the South Asia desk at the State Department.

The question of Kashmir came under discussions between Vice President Al Gore and the prime minister, Moin Qureshi, and both leaders agreed that there was a need to resolve the dispute. John Mallot and Moin Qureshi considered the current disturbances in the region. In the backdrop of recently enhanced repression measures being conducted by the Indian occupation forces in the held Kashmir, the discussions between the Pakistan prime minister and senior U.S. officials assumes special significance. In fact, the United States has for long been expressing its serious concern over events in occupied Kashmir, and, as a well-wisher of both India and Pakistan, has been advising and persuading both the countries to hold negotiations over this outstanding dispute.

Pakistan has always welcomed the United States' efforts for goodwill and given a positive response to its suggestions. However, India has yet to relent. Its attitude has, on the other hand, been stiffening with the passage of time. It has all the time been rejecting the offer by the United States and other friendly nations to use their good offices for bringing the two sides together to the negotiating table. With John Mallot, who had only recently visited the subcontinent with Kashmir high on his agenda, the Indian treatment was downright humiliating and arrogant. Even if the United States chose to ignore the shabby Indian deal to John Mallot, perhaps due to political reasons, the Indian message could not possibly have been lost on the Americans.

India already regards itself a global superpower and would brook no interference by outsiders in the region which India considers its private playground. The pity of it (?is) that the general indifference displayed by the governments of the free nations is allowing India time to fulfil its evil designs of ethnic cleansing in the occupied valley of Kashmir.

The world is gradually awaking to the human rights abuses around the globe, and the United Nations has intervened in places. Its action in Somalia is a case in point. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, also, the United Nations has reacted, although its response has been grossly inadequate. But in Kashmir the United Nations has failed to take any notice of the gross human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces during the last four years, despite the fact that Kashmir is still on the UN Security Council's agenda as an unresolved dispute. It is high time that the United Nations acted in Kashmir also.

As for the United States, which, undoubtedly, is the leading world power today, it needs to raise the vehemence of its advice to India. Instead of behaving merely as a concerned observer, it might consider exercizing its unlimited international clout over India and tell India more effectively to stop immediately its gory acts of killing and rape, loot and arson in the occupied Kashmir and enter into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan to find an honorable and lasting settlement of the question.

Foreign Minister, Russian Envoy Meet on Tajikistan

Pakistan 'Ready' To Help Defuse Tensions

BK0108142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] The special envoy of the Russian foreign minister, Mr. Alexiyev, had talks in Islamabad today with the foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, and Foreign Secretary Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan. Later, talking to newsmen, the foreign secretary described the talks as intensive and in-depth. He said Pakistan is ready to play any role desired by the parties concerned to defuse tension triggered by the Afghan-Tajikistan border conflict. The foreign secretary said the Russian Federation feels that Pakistan can play a helpful role in this respect. Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Russian Federation share the opinion that Tajiks should resolve their internal matters themselves.

Afghan Foreign Minister Joins Talks

BK0108144293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—Russia and Pakistan want the warring government and opposition in Tajikistan to hold talks, officials here said as Islamabad confirmed it had expelled Tajik Muslim leaders for making statements about the war.

A special Russian envoy, Aleksandr Alexiyev, met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar and Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan after arriving here Sunday.

Khan, one of Pakistan's most senior Foreign Ministry officials, said that "one or two Tajik leaders have left Pakistan." [passage omitted]

The expulsion appeared to signify a refusal by Pakistan to play in the Tajik war the role it played during the 13-year Afghan war, in which Muslim Pakistan offered Afghan mojahedin safe haven as they fought Soviet troops and a Moscow-installed government.

After the talks with Alexiyev, Khan said Russia wanted Pakistan to play a "helpful role" in defusing the tension on the Afghan-Tajik border.

Both Russia and Afghanistan favoured a dialogue between the government and Islamic opposition in Tajikistan to resolve their differences, he said.

"This is the basic common denominator emerging from all discussions," Khan said. [passage omitted]

Sattar and Khan had a lengthy session with the visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsala here Saturday.

"It is essential that Tajik groups should sit down to sort out their differences themselves," Khan said, adding "the Russians and all others support this."

Alexiev, who flew in from Moscow, was expected to have another round of talks with Pakistani officials. He is due to return home Monday.

His visit here coincided with the talks in Kabul between another Russian emissary and Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

An Afghan official spokesman said Saturday after the talks that Russia had agreed to stop cross-border artillery attacks by the Russian troops on nothern Afghanistan.

In recent weeks Russian troops on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan have shelled Afghan villages killing and wounding hundreds of civilians in retaliation for alleged Afghan support for Muslim Tajik rebels battling the pro-communist government in Dushanbe.

The strikes led to protests from Kabul.

Afghan Foreign Minister, President Hold Talks

Pakistan Ready for Cooperation

LD0108193893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, met this afternoon with the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, esteemed Sajjad. At the meeting, which was attended by deputy minister of foreign affairs, esteemed Hamed Karzay; Afghanistan's ambassador and representative to Islamabad, Sardar Mohammad Roshan; Mr. Abdus Sattar, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan; and Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul, Mr. Amir Usman, topics on bilateral relations were discussed. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani president expressed confidence that his country is ready for every sort of cooperation with the friendly and fraternal country, Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister met with Pakistani Prime Minister Moin Qureshi this afternoon. Present at this meeting were, from the Afghan side: Mr. Mohammad Hamed Karzay, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and esteemed Sardar Mohammad Roshan. From the Pakistani side: Foreign Affairs Minister Abdus Sattar and Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul, Mr. Amir Usman.

Both sides talked about the further strengthening of bilateral relations, the expansion of economic and trade relations, and regional matters.

According to another report, the Afghan foreign minister today met with the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Kabul, Mr. [name indistinct] and with the special envoy of the UN for Afghanistan/Pakistan, Mr. Mousouris Sotirios. The meetings were held in the presence of the envoys in Islamabad. During the talks, their attention was drawn to Turkish cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and to the cooperation of the UN in the return of Afghan refugees.

Foreign Affairs Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala also met with Russian charge d'affaires to Islamabad, Mr. [name indistinct]. The Afghan ambassador to Islamabad was also present. During the meeting, the foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan demanded the immediate halt of the Russian bombardment of Afghanistan's border regions and of the merciless killing of civilians in the country's northern border regions. The Afghan side emphasized that the Islamic State of Afghanistan wants a political solution to the problem of Tajikistan and is ready for every kind of cooperation in this regard.

The foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan attended a luncheon given by Britain's ambassador to Islamabad, Mr. Nicholas John Barrington. Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed Karzay and Afghanistan's ambassador to Islamabad also attended.

Afghanistan To Receive Economic Aid

BK0108144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has said Pakistan wants to have the strongest of ties with Afghanistan. He was talking to the visiting foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Hidayat Amin Arsala, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan's policy of friendship with Afghanistan represents a national consensus. The acting president reiterated Pakistan's desire to see peace and stability in Afghanistan, which is essential for the region. He assured the Afghan foreign minister that despite resource constraints, Pakistan would be happy to assist

Afghanistan in its gigantic task of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Afghan foreign minister apprised the acting president of the latest situation in Afghanistan and the efforts being made for the revival of economic activity in the country. They also discussed ways and means to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Hidayat Amin Arsala, also called on the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today. The caretaker prime minister expressed his sympathy for the difficulties faced by the Afghan people. He told the Afghan foreign minister that the Government of Pakistan has decided to allocate 10 million rupees for emergency assistance to Afghanistan, part of which will be utilized to overcome the problem of cholera.

The situation on the Afghan-Tajik border was also reviewed, and both sides agreed to undertake every possible measure to defuse the tension, which is not conducive to regional peace and stability. The prime minister said Pakistan believes the problem can only be resolved through political dialogue. The Afghan foreign minister conveyed his government's gratitude for the political support and economic assistance extended by Pakistan during the jihad and later during the rehabilitation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan.

Ministers View Trade, Central Asia

BK0108142093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have decided to set up a task force to ensure the smooth flow of goods under the Pakistan-Afghan agreement of 1965. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the decision was reached following talks between the Afghan foreign minister, Hidayat Amir Arsala, and the caretaker foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar. The two leaders also discussed expansion of bilateral relations and infrastructural links to promote access to Central Asia.

The spokesman added that developments on Afghan-Tajik border also came under discussion.

Portfolios of Three New Ministers Announced

BK0208085293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Three new federal ministers have been inducted into the caretaker federal cabinet, raising the number of federal ministers to nine. The names and portfolios of the new ministers are as follows: Retired Justice Abdus Shakurussalam—law and parliamentary affairs and religious and minority affairs; Retired Lieutenant General Rahim Dil Bhatti—petroleum, natural resources, production, and defense production; Ali Khan Junejo—food and agriculture, local bodies and rural development, housing, works, and agricultural research. The caretaker federal cabinet will meet in Islamabad this morning; it will be chaired by Prime Minister Moin Qureshi.

Construction of Nuclear Power Plant Begins

BK0108150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Construction of the country's second nuclear power plant has begun at Chashma near Mianwali. A special ceremony was held at Chashma this morning marking the beginning of this project of national importance. The chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, and the president of Chinese national Nuclear Corporation, Mr. Jiang Zinxiong, jointly pushed the button to put the first pour of concrete in the reactor building. The first concrete pour marks an important milestone in the construction of the plant.

PTV [Pakistan Television] correspondent Qamar Moiyuddin reports that the plant, with the capacity of generating 300 megawatts electricity, is a major step forward in providing basic infrastructure for national progress. The plant is scheduled to be connected to the national grid in November 1998. The Chashma Nuclear Power Plant is the pressurized reactor type. The cooling water requirement of the plant will be met from Chashma-Jhelum link canal on the bank of river Indus at Chashma barrage. The major part of the project completed so far includes basic designs, safety report and review, excavation, and order for major plant equipment.

Earlier, speaking at the ceremony to mark the beginning of work on the nuclear power plant, the president of the National Nuclear Corporation of China, Mr. Jiang Zinxiong, said China and Pakistan are developing nuclear energy for their common goal, which is aimed at accelerating the contribution of energy to peace and economic prosperity. He said the two countries are consistently maintaining friendship and cooperation to help each other in economic development.

The chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, said Pakistan needs to step up electricity generation to maintain its pace of development. He said we wish to curtail our oil import expenditure by increasing share of electricity from nuclear energy.

The general manager of (Xianjiang) Engineering Corporation of China, Mr. (Fan Shiling) highlight the significance of the project.

The general manager of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Mr. Asghar Beg, gave a resume of the project and highlighted efforts of the Chinese and Pakistani engineers in this regard.

After the ceremony, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commisison, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, spoke to Pakistan Television correspondent M.Z. Sohail about the plant:

[Begin Ahmed's recording] Pakistan is short of fossil fuel and hydro resources for generation of electricity. Electricity is extremely essential for future development. Therefore, we think that nuclear energy can play a role in the socioeconomic development of Pakistan. [end recording]